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7 September 1983

CHINA REPORT

AGRICULTURE

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

ZHENG WEISHAN ON FORESTS, NATIONAL DEFENSE

HK101229 Beijing LIAOWANG in Chinese No 6, 20 Jun 83 pp 7-9

[Article by Deng Guotian [6772 0948 3240] and Li Minjie [2621 2404 2638]:
"Develop Afforestation for the Benefit of the People--Comrade Zheng Weishan
on National Defense and Forestry"]

[Text] In mid-January this year, when Zheng Weishan, commander of the Lanzhou PLA Units, was going to assume office, Deng Xiaoping, chairman of the Central Military Commission, proposed that the Lanzhou PLA Units should formulate a plan to support local construction and be resolved to spend a period of 20 years helping various areas to do a good job of afforestation in the Great Northwest and to change the natural features of the highlands of northwestern China for the benefit of future generations.

Now, Comrade Zheng Weishan has been in office for 5 months. What have the Lanzhou PLA Units done in implementing Comrade Deng Xiaoping's instructions? We made a special visit to this general, who spent a long time fighting during the war years.

It was one day in early summer when the commander received us at his home. We found that his face had been darkened by the strong ultraviolet rays of the highlands. It turned out that, undaunted by the unusual cold of northwestern China in the severe winter and the biting winds and frosts of early spring, after assuming office, he had headed for Guanzhong, Yanan, and Yulin in Shaanxi, traveled through the dry land in the central part of Gansu and the Hexi Corridor, moved on to Yinnan, Yinbei, and the Guyuan Prefecture of Ningxia, and visited the military camps of PLA units stationed in Qinghai and other areas, covering a total distance of 20,000 km. He had spent 2 months in on-the-spot surveys. He had seen for himself barren mountains and peaks that extended mile after mile and the rolling Gobi Desert that stretched endlessly. He felt deeply that Comrade Deng Xiaoping's instructions could not have been better suited for the realities of the Great Northwest. He said with feeling: To afforest the highlands of the Northwest is necessary in the development of production and the realization of modernization and also in the building of national defenses. Here lie the long-term interests of the state and the nation. Military areas and important military works and facilities of the Northwest are mostly placed in barren areas. This is highly

unfavorable to the implementation of the guidelines for strategic defense. Therefore, in helping with the proper handling of local afforestation, we should also at the same time take national defense forests into consideration. This is a way of safeguarding the motherland's cause and an inescapable glorious duty of the army and the masses of militiamen.

Opening a map and pointing to its edge, Zheng Weishan said that the four provinces and regions--Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, and Qinghai--where the Lanzhou PLA Units are stationed have vast lands rich in resources. There is a great potential for economic development. But three-fourths of these lands consist of barren mountains and peaks and the Gobi Desert. The area covered with vegetation is very small. The Qilian Mountains, the Helan Mountains, the Liupan Mountains, and other areas have a sprinkling of trees here and there, but mostly in shaded or partially shaded slopes 1,700 to 2,800 meters above sea level. This is extremely unfavorable to economic construction and the building of battlefronts in the Northwest. Therefore, the PLA units must combine efforts to help local areas in the proper growing of trees with the handling of national defense afforestation and try to achieve results in a down-to-earth manner.

After the Long March, Zheng Weishan came to the Northwest and fought in many areas. In those years of the Anti-Japanese War and the War of Liberation, he was active in the depths of mountain forests in north China. Later, he commanded an army which marched northwest and joined in the battles to liberate Lanzhou and Yinchuan. After the founding of the PRC, he led an army to fight in Korea, setting many examples in his seeking forest cover to triumph over the enemy. In light of his personal experiences, he said that the history of revolutionary wars told us that military action is closely related to forests and that the army is inseparable from forests. During the period of the Red Army, the enemy outnumbered us. A very important reason we had survived, grown, and smashed through the enemy "encirclement and suppression" was that we relied on the dense forests of high mountains. I was then with the Red Army's Fourth Front Army. It could be said that without the Dabie Mountains with their dense forests and luxuriant grass, the survival and victory of the front army would have been made very difficult. During the period of the Anti-Japanese War, I fought in the Taihang Mountains of western Hebei. Where there were forests and mountains, the enemy could scarcely succeed in their "mopping-up" operations. Where there was no surface cover, we could only hide underground and fight in tunnels.

Here the commander could not help bursting into song (singing a guerrilla tune): "Everywhere in the depths of forests are placed camps of our comrades...." He said the period of the War of Liberation, battlefields consisted mostly of plains. But where there were forests and "green cover," the odds were more favorable to us. In the war to resist U.S. aggression and to aid Korea, the rolling high mountains and thriving dense forests of Korea prevented the

enemy from giving proper play to the role of its superior air forces and its armored tanks. We also used the readily available trees growing wild in the mountains to build tunnels to cover up our attempted actions. This enabled us to score a major victory,

Given human progress and the development of modern warfare, has the value of forests in national defense diminished?

When this problem was taken up, the commander showed us a book--"National Defense Forests." He told us that this is a work by Chen Chuanguo, an engineer of the Forestry and Soil Science Institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It was sent to him from Shenyang by the author in February this year. The book clearly defines the relationship between forests and national defense. Continuously to increase its own protective power, the army in future wars will have to place ever greater, not lesser, reliance on such natural factors as forests, vegetation, and so forth. Especially for our country, focusing on defense and favoring the launching of people's wars, forests play an all the more important part. Despite mechanization and control of the air, an aggressor force cannot give full play to its superiority faced with a vast land of forests. As a natural barrier, forests also have a hindering effect on enemy transportation, deployment, and fighting. From the standpoint of defense, forests represent an invisible "bastion" and a "trench." Such an analogy was not in the least exaggerated.

We invited the commander to talk about the idea of creating a national defense forest in the Northwest. He said that it was still too early to consider this problem. In light of the opinions of certain specialists in forestry and of the future combat assignments for the Lanzhou PLA Units, he felt that we should pay attention to the following several fields:

Where there are important existing positions and key strategic points, we must create forest zones or belts. In ordinary times, these forests can contain wind and sand storms and protect military works. In times of war, they can help conceal targets and keep the enemy from launching an in-depth attack.

In the flat, open country, we must combine the building of farmland irrigation facilities and roads with the creation of a crisscross of forest belts at both sides of ditches or roads, allowing trees to form a network of natural barriers, tightly packed and terraced. In ordinary times, these trees can provide shelter against wind and sandstorms and stimulate the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. In time of war, they can be relied upon to slow down enemy action and to reduce the speed and thrust of a frontal, in-depth attack.

In those towns and villages which provide no favorable conditions for stiff resistance in defense but favorable conditions for guerrilla warfare, the planting of clumps of trees can serve to beautify environments in ordinary times and can be relied upon in time of war to involve the enemy in a war of attrition.

There are of course many favorable conditions for the building of natural defense forests in the Northwest. But greater difficulties also stand in the way. Zheng Weishan said that in creating national defense forests, we must take into account the protracted and difficult nature of the job. This is no simple task--not like the simple act of shouting slogans. The greatest problem is the vastness of the area involved in national defense forests. Besides, given the great dryness of the Northwest, many actual tasks must be tackled boldly and wisely. For example, annual precipitation in the Northwest reaches only 300 millimeters. Therefore, it will not do to plant trees and grass haphazardly. Instead, we must gear measures to local features and respect science. We must train as quickly as possible a number of technical cadres who understand military matters and also the business of afforestation, so that they can study certain major problems of technology and planning in order to guide the afforestation effort in the Northwest. We must vigorously give publicity to the role of forests in national defense, strengthen the consciousness of army men and militiamen in growing trees, and strive to form a shock force in the afforestation effort in the Northwest.

Early this year, the leadership organ of the Lanzhou PLA Units formulated a 3-year program and an 8-year tentative plan for helping various localities with afforestation in the Northwest. It is stipulated that before 1985, efforts should be concentrated on afforesting military camping areas and all military installations, so that there is no empty space or wasteland left within the barracks or at the "four sides" (the side of a road, the side of a ditch, the side of a house, and the side of a training ground), with the afforested area meeting the requirements of the general headquarters. By 1990, all army units should first help localities with proper afforestation within a 10-km radius of a garrison area and then gradually extend beyond to a radius of 15 or 20 km. Comrade Zheng Weishan told us that the Lanzhou PLA Units had overfulfilled the tree-planting plan for the spring of this year. By mid-May, the total number of trees planted in camping areas had reached 2.71 million. Trees planted in stretches of land covered 5,600 mu. Saplings covered more than 2,500 mu. These figures greatly exceeded those of previous years. It can be said that we have won the first round and taken a gratifying initial step forward this year in our march to afforest the Great Northwest.

When we were on the point of saying goodbye to the commander, his secretary showed up with a thick stack of letters from the masses. These letters had come from forestry specialists, engineering and technical personnel, teachers, cadres, and people in all circles of 15 provinces and cities of the country. Some of them had certain works on forestry enclosed therein. All the writers had keenly offered plans and ideas for the afforestation of the Great Northwest.

Pointing to these letters, the commander said with emotion: "They are all a knowledgeable lot. These letters are packed with knowledge and strength. Many of them have the effect of moving the reader to tears and of stimulating his progress." We extracted a letter from the stack. It was from a school teacher of Dingxi Prefecture, Gansu, who was a retired armyman. The letter cited the deeds of Zuo Zongtang of the Qing Dynasty, growing trees all the way in his march on Xinjiang, and also a piece of doggerel that Feng Yuxiang wrote when his troops stationed in Xuzhou worked vehemently on growing trees.

"As old Feng is in Xuzhou, the trees grow tall with their green foliage. Anyone that cuts down my trees will be beheaded by me." The letter then added: "Those willows then grown by Zuo Zongtang and his followers have been called by people, 'Duke Zuo's willows.' This is a sincere tribute to them and is an honor that money cannot buy." He hoped that "'Zheng's willows' will replace 'Duke Zuo's willows' in the vast land of the Northwest in the years to come."

When we could not help reading out aloud the last two lines of Chinese, Commander Zheng said with feeling: "This is a gesture of trust in me and in the masses of commanders and fighters and is a source of inspiration. Meanwhile, it is also a kind of mental pressure! We must turn pressure into strength and strive to accomplish this highly promising enterprise. We must respond to the wishes and support of people in all circles with practical actions."

CSO: 4007/228

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT

Beijing NONGYE JINGJI WENTI [PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS] in Chinese
No 2, 23 Feb 83 p 11

[Text] A national symposium on forestry development, sponsored jointly by the Agricultural Economics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Fujian Academy of Social Sciences, and the Fujian Provincial Department of Forestry, took place in Fuzhou, 15-21 December 1982. It was attended by more than 120 people, including economics and forestry specialists, professors, and researchers from 22 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions who presented over 70 papers.

Heartened by the spirit of the 12th CPC Congress, the symposium proceeded under the leadership of the Fujian Provincial CPC Committee and the backing of the Ministry of Forestry. Encouraged by the steady improvement of forest production since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee and the strategic targets set forth by the 12th CPC Congress for the development of the national economy before the year 2000, the delegates felt sure that the development of China's forestry and the eradication of its backwardness would triumph.

The symposium focused on the following issues:

1. The Strategic Position of Forestry

The delegates to the symposium are of the opinion that forestry occupies a vital strategic position in China's national economy and that the state has already earmarked the development of forestry as a major state policy. China, a country of 1 billion people, 9.6 million square kilometers in area, mostly mountainous with only 12.7 percent forest coverage, simply cannot provide enough timber and forest products required for the socialist construction and livelihood of the people, improve environmental quality, and maintain ecological balance.

Due to excessive exploitation of the forest resources and scanty afforestation over a long period of time, the huge "forest deficit" has led to disastrous consequences. First, soil erosion is getting worse and worse. Statistical data attest that the total area of soil erosion in China which measured 1.16 million square kilometers in the early 1950's has extended to 1.5 million

square kilometers. Second, unfavorable climatic changes have resulted in frequent visitations of flood and drought. According to statistical data, the areas of both disaster-afflicted and disaster-stricken land which averaged annually 334 million mu and 139 million mu, respectively, between 1950 and 1959 have expanded to an annual average of 630 million mu and 219 million mu, respectively, between 1972 and 1981. Third, the area of land desertification has increased. According to the findings of the Lanzhou Desert Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the area of land desertification in China, which stood at 120,000 square kilometers prior to the war against Japan, has gone up to 170,000 square kilometers, an increase of 50,000 square kilometers. Fourth, the rivers, lakes and dams are dreadfully silted. Fifth, there is environmental pollution. Sixth, there is an acute energy shortage. Although there are many factors responsible for these disasters, reckless felling of trees is a major contributing cause.

The delegates to the symposium recognized the need to include timber production as a major target of forestry development, but they believe that to neglect the production of other forest byproducts, especially the role of forests in maintaining ecological balance, is bound to lead to the destruction of forests and other resources.

The delegates to the symposium maintained that an accurate assessment of the strategic role of forestry covers two major areas: more forest coverage for public benefit and environmental protection, on the one hand, and more forest reserve and various economic forest products to satisfy the need of economic construction and the livelihood of the people. Forestry also plays a leading role in activating and improving the economy of the mountainous regions. The direct and indirect benefits of forestry, however, should be synchronized.

The delegates to the symposium acknowledged that forestry has a decisive bearing on preserving ecological balance and improving conditions for agriculture and animal husbandry. Even though flood and drought prevention and water conservation are essential agricultural constructions, the fundamental long-term priorities conducive to more rewarding results are to coordinate both engineering and biological measures designed to increase the percentage of forest coverage and rational utilization of land.

II. The Strategic Targets and Priorities of Forestry Development

The views on the meaning of the strategic targets of forestry development expressed by the delegates during the discussion do not represent a consensus. Most comrades claim the targets should be well focused and explicit enough to reflect the level of forestry development and its overall role. The strategic targets commensurable with such a principle should be to raise the percentage of forest coverage and to increase the volume of forest products. These targets cover two areas of activities. First, expand the area of forest coverage to bring into play the multiple benefits associated with forestry. Second, raise the forest reserve and the economic forest products and byproducts, such as mushrooms and medicinal materials, so as to meet step by step the requirements of national economic construction and the livelihood of the people. This

will help synchronize quantitatively and qualitatively the forest coverage and reserve, its direct and indirect benefits, the ultimate objective of forestry development. Some comrades are of the opinion that the way to better satisfy the needs of the various sectors is to include in the strategic targets of forestry development absolute and relative quantitative quotas, quantitative quotas of goods and cash, quotas of foresting, and quotas of timber felling and processing. Some comrades maintain that when the targets are broken down into so many quotas, they lose their focus and cease to be strategic targets. There are some comrades who want to make gross forest output value the strategic target. Most comrades think the emphasis on gross forest output value does not agree with the reality of China's forestry because it does not reflect accurately the achievement in forest production and leads to unfavorable deviations, including excessive exploitation and minimal afforestation, which undermine the implementation of the policy of active foresting.

As for the strategic priorities of forestry development, the comrades at the symposium agree that forestry has been the weakest link of the national economy. The forest resources are too scanty to meet the requirements of the ecological environment and forest production. The persistent forest deficit caused by more trees felled than grown has led to the decline of exploitable forest resources and public benefits. Consequently, the strategic priority should focus on expanding the forest resources. The first step is to protect existing forests and use them as bases for forestry development. It would be difficult to open up new fronts if the existing bases could not be defended. The most urgent forestry work is to control the felling of trees, especially unplanned and reckless felling of trees. Make no bones about using all possible methods to develop forestry, including coordinated manual afforestation, closing hillsides for afforestation, afforestation by airborne and manual seeding. Encourage the masses to take up afforestation individually and collectively. Help those departments and enterprises (such as coal mines and paper mills) which use large quantities of timber and have the facility for afforestation to open up forest land to grow their own trees, and require them to be self-sufficient in timber supply within a specified period of time. The development of forestry should include, wherever and whenever objective conditions permit, the cultivation of timber forests, shelter forests, fuel forests and various economic forests. Strive to utilize forest resources rationally. Make comprehensive use of timber and run diversified operations in all forest regions to help small operations become big enterprises and turn wastes into profit. Economize on timber resources and cut down the consumption of forest resources.

III. Strategic Measures for Forestry Development

The following measures should be adopted for the development of forestry:

1. Forestry Development in China Depends Primarily on Her 800 Million Peasants

The delegates to the symposium unanimously agreed that extensive development of forestry rests primarily with the 800 million peasants. The tremendous surplus village labor force resulting from rapid development of the rural

economy and greater rural labor productivity brought about by various production responsibility systems since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee represents a gigantic potential force to develop forestry and the economy of the mountainous regions. China still has a vast land reserve of more than 100 million mu of barren mountains and wasteland suitable for afforestation. According to a decision of the CPC Central Committee, 15-20 percent of the barren hills suitable for afforestation may be set aside as the private hilly plots of peasants. The fact that the land for greenery and immediate afforestation is near where the peasants live offers an objective justification of our dependence on the peasants to develop forestry. More important still is the fact that the acute shortage of timber and firewood in villages makes the peasant masses anxious to speed the development of forestry. In fact, the liberalization of the rural economic policy has contributed immensely to the zeal of the peasants to plant trees and protect them. Furthermore, the implementation of various systems of responsibility for afforestation and forest cultivation in recent years has led to not only better quality, more speedy progress, lower labor and material costs, but also the elimination of poor-quality afforestation and low survival rate due to years of ill-defined responsibility and neglect of the personal interests of the peasants. What is especially noteworthy is the emergence of a system of expansive foresting for specified output. The disappearance of "eating out of a communal pot" and clinging to "unbreakable rice bowls" has brought greenery to hilly regions which had been barren for decades. Practice proves once again that the activism of the masses can generate a gigantic physical force for forestry development as long as it has a direct bearing on the personal interests of the peasants and as long as responsibility, power and benefits are properly allocated. The 800 million peasants are both forest producers and consumers. If they were unwilling to work for it, the state alone would not be able to afforest the barren hills and wasteland and meet the need for timber and forest products.

In view of the long-term investment and the social effect of forestry, some people, who try to underscore the importance of state-operated forests and their reservations about leaving forestry in the hands of the 800 million peasants, cite from "Das Kapital" Marx's view that forestry must not be left to capitalists and private individuals. Some of their worries have been resolved by the use of contracts, while others call for the state and the collective economy to provide economic, technical and managerial assistance to enable the 800 million peasants to play a major role in forestry development. Only by relying on the peasant masses can we successfully afforest the good earth of China. This does not mean to downgrade the leading role of the state-operated forests which still cover most of China's forest land and provide the timber and forest products required for socialist construction. The state should use such methods as airborne and manual seeding to afforest the sparsely populated distant and expansive mountainous regions which are beyond the capability of individuals and communes to afforest. The state-operated forests should be responsible for breeding, introducing and cultivating improved varieties of nursery stocks for forests operated by individuals and communes, and serve as their model of scientific experiments and management. Consequently, the existing state-operated forests should be reinforced and improved.

2. Adopt Diversified Systems of Production Responsibility at Multiple Levels To Develop Forestry

Most comrades are of the opinion that since agriculture and forestry are similar in certain areas, some features of the system of responsibility for agricultural production are applicable to forestry.

The delegates think contracting by households for specified output is better than all other diversified systems of responsibility because it binds together forest production, the need of the masses, and the personal economic interests of the workers. The operations may take the following forms, depending on the objectives:

A. Contracting by each household for specified agricultural and forestry jobs concurrently.

B. Management of forestry by specialized households.

These two systems are good for the afforestation of scattered barren hills and wasteland, and for improving economic forests, cheap forests and shrub groves. These systems are best for combining agricultural, forestry and animal husbandry operations.

C. Contracting by large households for specific operations. In addition to his whole family, the contractor who signs up for a barren hill may hire helpers for foresting and other diversified operations. Contractors like Li Jinyao, a member of the Liangjing production brigade of Gaiwei Commune, Xiangyou County, Putian Prefecture, Fujian, who contracted to afforest hill-sides, have grown in numbers in the collective forest regions of South China. They are a force to be reckoned with.

The delegates could not quite agree to let specialized households run the economic forests. Some of them claim that the cultivation and management of economic forests are highly technical and should be run by specialized teams in order to improve the technology and management. Most delegates, however, maintain that the local traditional economic forests may be run by the specialized households because they have the experience and the know-how to do so. Of course they may also be run jointly by a number of households or specialized teams and units voluntarily organized for mutual benefits. This would be conducive to intensive operations and bring more income to the peasant households.

At present, the forestry centers are extremely vital to forestry development. They were, are and will be the beachheads of China's forestry, the mainstays of environmental protection and the bases to provide timber and other forest products. To strengthen the existing system of forest management, it is necessary to improve the existing system of planning and management. The legitimate use of timber by the masses and the localities should be incorporated in the planning to ensure unified management and control by the state. With regard to the management of the existing forests, most delegates favor operations by joint households, specialized teams or units. In view of the long

life cycle of forests, management by specialized teams and joint households is more economical and efficient than that by the isolated individual households. This is demonstrated by the emergence of new joint ventures in those localities where each household has been given specified responsibilities.

Forest centers run by the communes are another form of forest management. However, the communes must coordinate long- and short-term projects, increase their economic effectiveness, and resolve the problem of profit distribution in forest production.

The merger of state-operated forests with adjacent communes occurs mainly in hilly localities where agriculture and forestry crisscross. To benefit the state and the communes as well as agriculture and forestry, the state and the communes may sign agency or joint operations agreements to organize the cadres of the production teams to protect the forests and operate forest production. The state and the communes should work together to protect, develop and utilize the forest resources for forest construction, and to combine the rights, responsibilities and interests of the local peasants in the forests. Turn the antagonism between the state and the communes into conscientious cooperation to speed up the restoration and development of the forests.

The state-operated enterprise should have its internal system of evaluations, rewards and punishments, and various systems of production responsibility, and position responsibility should be established for different working procedures at all levels commensurate with the different production operations.

3. Spur Forest Production by Making Short-term Projects Sustain Long-term Projects and by Diversified Operations

The delegates to the symposium maintained that to spur the development of forestry, it would be necessary to launch diversified operations for the forests run by the state, the communes and the masses in order to achieve self-reliance and to develop short-term projects to sustain long-term projects. The habit of depending on state funding and doing no more than the state finances actually retards the development of forestry. Most delegates cited facts to illustrate that the way to develop forest production is to capitalize on favorable local conditions and to run diversified operations designed to spur short-term projects to sustain long-term projects. They recommended that the departments concerned should work through agricultural and forest zoning to map out the kind of forests and trees for different localities, and carry out the plan step by step. The funds for forestry appropriated by the state should be distributed and spent sensibly. Actually the funds for forestry development should come from the forests directly through the development of processing industries and diversified operations, and the exploitation of hidden forest resources. The delegates believe there are great potentials for raising the economic effectiveness of forest production. What needs to be done is to find solutions to those problems which have plagued forest production for a long time, such as backward technology, poor productivity, low survival rate of young trees and waste attendant to production. Instead of focusing solely on timber supply, the forestry production departments should guide forestry development toward raising its economic effectiveness. This

requires popularization of forestry science and education, realistic assessment of the forestry experience of the masses and rational distribution of forest species based on the law of nature to generate excellent varieties of healthy nursery stocks, especially locally suitable stocks for mixed forests. These will work directly or indirectly to spur the development of forests, to improve soil quality, to prevent forest diseases and pests, and to reduce incidence of forest fire. However, all these measures must be integrated with economic measures and plans to modernize the operation and management of forestry, including the utilization of modern scientific achievements and the introduction of new technology and scientific management.

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CSO: 4007/131

SUMMARY OF NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON STATE FARM ECONOMY

Beijing NONGYE JINGJI WENTI [PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS] in Chinese
No 2, 23 Feb 83 p 21-23

[Text] The national symposium on state farm economy held in the city of Nanning, 4-10 December 1982, was convened jointly by the Chinese Institute of Agricultural Reclamation Economics, the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Guangxi Academy of Social Sciences, and the Guangxi Agricultural Reclamation Bureau. It was attended by 133 scientific and technical workers, educational workers, leading cadres of the Agricultural Reclamation System and agricultural reclamation workers of 85 units, including the National Agricultural Reclamation System, the academies of social sciences, related colleges and universities, scientific research units, the news media and publication units. The symposium received 83 papers and investigation reports. This was the third symposium on state farm economy.

The meeting began with a briefing on the spirit and related documents of similar meetings recently convened by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council. Guided by the spirit of the 12th CPC National Congress, the symposium, focusing on how to seek a breakthrough for the state farms, covered a wide range of topics, though there were two major issues: 1) deliberations on the nature, position and role of the state farms, and the strategy of their development; and 2) how to raise their economic effectiveness.

I. Problems Concerning the Nature, Position, Role and Development Strategy of the State Farms

The consensus on the nature of a state farm is that it is a state-financed enterprise established on state-owned land for production by more advanced methods. Its means of production are owned by the state, and its production, exchange and distribution operations are governed by state plans. However, there are divergent views on how to define the nature of a state farm. According to one view, a state farm, as an enterprise, is an economy owned by the whole people. As a society within its own confines, it includes an economy owned by the whole people, as well as collective and individual ownership of the economy. Even though the collectively and individually owned economy keeps expanding, the nature of a state farm as an economy owned by the whole people will not change. Some believe that in view of recent joint development

of agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises by state farms, it ought to be defined as a joint agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprise owned by the whole people. Some claim that to regard a state farm as an agricultural enterprise owned by the whole people does not reflect accurately its true nature because the state farms include not only the economy owned by the whole people but also the collectively and individually owned economy, not only agriculture, but also industry which is likely to expand. If a state farm were still regarded as an enterprise owned by the whole people, it would not help the development of the collectively and individually owned economy, nor enhance the development of industry, commerce and transportation services on the farm. These comrades are of the opinion that a state farm may be defined as a joint enterprise basically owned by the whole people where diverse economic sectors coexist, where agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production and fishery flourish, and where agriculture, industry and commerce are run jointly. They believe such a definition does not tarnish the nature of a state farm as an enterprise owned by the whole people. Some believe that all-out development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production, fishery and joint operation of agriculture, industry and commerce are matters of business projects which should not be included in defining the nature of a state farm. Instead, a state farm should be defined as a joint enterprise of coexisting diverse economic components basically owned by the whole people. Those comrades who insist that a state farm is an enterprise owned by the whole people allege the definition, not precise enough on the nature of ownership, may lead to ideological confusions.

As for the position and roles of the state farms, the comrades who had analyzed their actual conditions believe they have been doing very well since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee. The state farms in some provinces and regions, such as Heilongjiang and Xinjiang, are practically in a controlling position in the local economy. Those of Guangdong, Yunnan, Guangxi and Fujian are producing rubber, a vital resource to the state. The farms in the suburbs of such metropolitan centers as Beijing, Tianjin and Shanghai provide a tremendous amount of nonstaple foodstuff, including milk. The more mechanized and labor-efficient farms of the various provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions which rank high in commodity production and profit rate are already and will be the models for collectively owned agriculture. In fact, we should strive to operate the farms even more efficiently and make them play a model role in reaching the strategic objectives set by the 12th CPC National Congress. The consensus is that the roles the farms can play are in the following five areas: 1) to supply the state with commodities, to accumulate funds to expand reproduction, to raise farm labor productivity, and to lead the pursuit of agricultural modernization; 2) to serve as bases for commodity production, for training scientific, technical and management personnel, and for the popularization of new technology and better breeds; 3) to serve as a mainstay and supporter of rural economic combines; 4) to serve as the main force for establishing commodity-producing centers in newly reclaimed areas; and 5) to serve as frontier garrisons if they are located at the national borders.

Many comrades who believe the state farms have great potentials recommend that the following changes designed to increase economic effectiveness should be

implemented to help the farms achieve a breakthrough: 1) to direct appropriate attention to the development of the collective and individual economy as the state-owned economy develops; 2) to shift from extensive farming to intensive farming; 3) to shift from single-product economy to comprehensive development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production and fishery, and joint operation of agriculture, industry, commerce and transportation; and 4) to switch to specialized, commodity-oriented and socialized production which has fallen behind.

II. The Problem of Raising the Economic Effectiveness of State Farms

The discussions on how to raise the economic effectiveness of the state farms covered the following areas:

A. On Perfecting the Economic Responsibility System

The delegates to the symposium agree that the various economic responsibility systems implemented by the state farms have proved successful, and should be stabilized and perfected. Their heated debates were on the problem of "responsibility for large-scale assignments" assumed by the farms.

1. The concept of "responsibility for large-scale assignments" assumed by the state farms. Most comrades believe the responsibility for "large-scale assignments" assumed by the state farms and the "large-scale assignments" assumed by the villages are related and yet different. Under the system of responsibility for "large-scale assignments" assumed by the state farms, the means of production are owned by the whole people, the contractors do not change their status as staff and workers, and uniform planning for production and uniform marketing of products still remain intact. In reality, this is a responsibility system of individual contracting for specialized jobs jointly performed for remuneration. The staff and workers of a farm which practice this responsibility system of "large-scale assignments" usually are not entitled to take possession of their products. Instead, they receive their contractual income in cash after the products are sold by a central agency. The means of production and working tools are provided by the farm but later reimbursed by the staff and workers irrespective of loss or gain.

There are also comrades who claim that the "large-scale assignments" assumed by a state farm and the "large-scale assignments" assumed by a village do not differ much as far as the contracted land, investments and production plans are concerned, although the distribution of their products are not the same. Even this is not always true because the state farm staff and workers in certain areas are allowed to take possession and handle a portion of the products. So the two are basically identical.

2. Is the contracting for "large-scale assignments" suitable for state farms? The consensus is that the system of responsibility for "large-scale assignments" as well as other systems of production responsibility may apply to any small-scale production project dependent mainly on individual manual labor which can be specifically identified with a particular product if it has been

running a deficit and cannot be closed down or merged. But the quota assignments should be rational, and the state, enterprise and individual benefits should be properly apportioned.

Some comrades claim that the system of responsibility for "large-scale assignments" assumed by individual workers should not apply to more mechanized state farms where the production of many items require the group efforts of a number of workers each doing a specific part of the job and the products cannot be easily accredited to particular individuals.

3. How is the state farm economic responsibility system to be brought to perfection? Some comrades maintain that, in addition to improving the system of contracting to assume financial responsibilities and the various forms of job contracting at the basic level, there should also be a responsibility system for each office or section, each sector, each technology and each post on the production line to keep the cooperative relationship within an enterprise in line with its economic responsibility so as to ensure greater economic effectiveness. There must be a comprehensive set of rating requirements to cover all the departments and sectors at every level to evaluate the actual implementation of the economic responsibility system.

Another vitally important measure to perfect the economic responsibility system is whether a ceiling ought to be placed on bonuses (remuneration over and above the standard wage) granted by a state farm to its staff and workers. After careful consideration, most comrades agree that from an overall viewpoint, bonuses to compensate overquota labor should be placed under control. But the policy on bonuses granted a state farm to its staff and workers should be more lenient because the average wage and benefit of the staff and workers of a state farm where work is intense and production unstable are lower than those of factory workers.

B. The Accumulation and Utilization of Funds

The delegates maintain that except for a given amount of investment provided by the state, a farm has to work out its way to generate, accumulate and utilize wealth in order to resolve its funding problem. The best way to generate wealth is "to focus on one line of products through diversified business operations" wherever possible. The key to effective accumulation and utilization of funds is to raise funds by all possible means but use them for wise investment while striving to cut down production cost.

C. Technology Economics

All the delegates to the symposium agree that the role of technological economic work is becoming more and more important to the development of agricultural reclamation. The technological economic research capability of the existing agricultural reclamation agencies is very limited. It must be strengthened, and technological economic analysis should be widely used to assess the economic effectiveness of the new technology and crafts introduced to the agricultural reclamation system.

D. Readjustment of the Economic Structure

All the delegates to the symposium are of the opinion that the best way to increase the economic effectiveness of the state farms is to readjust the production structure by "focusing on one line of products through diversified business operations," and by merging agriculture, industry and commerce to form an organic whole. They are convinced that the existing system of management geared to "departmental monopoly" and "regional blockade" inhibits coordinated development of reclamation, agriculture, industry and commerce. These closely guarded departmental and regional blockades should be removed as soon as possible to make room for the state farms to cut across ownership, regional and trade barriers to develop diversified forms of joint reclamation, agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises commensurate with their productive capacity.

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DAILY ON SURVEY OF RURAL ECONOMY

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[Article by the liaison office of China's rural development research center: "At a New Historical Starting Point--A Summing-up Report on 'Investigation Carried Out in 100 Villages' in 1983"]

[Text] Following the "investigation on 100 villages" made in 1982, this year we again organized some 600 university and college students, whose families were in rural areas (distributed in 390 counties of 28 provinces and autonomous regions throughout the country), to conduct investigation in the villages and brigades where they lived. The subjects of investigation covered various aspects of rural society and economy, including the development and changes in the system of contracted responsibilities with payment linked to output, the state of agricultural commodity production, reform in the rural circulation field, agricultural science and technology, education and culture, social order, population control, and so on. The results of the survey show that the current situation in rural areas is excellent and that there have emerged some new circumstances and problems in its development.

1. The System of Contracted Responsibilities With Payment Linked to Output Is Extending Toward the Fields of Forestry, Animal Husbandry, Sideline Occupations, Fishery, and Other Occupations; and the Integration of Unified and Decentralized Management Has Shown That It Can Bring About Tremendous Economic Results

At present, the production teams that have practiced the various forms of contracted responsibility system with payment linked to output constitute 98.3 percent of the total number of production teams in the whole country, of which those that have practiced the "double-contracting system" constitute 93 percent, an increase of 14.8 percent over the end of last year. In the last 12 months, the system of contracted responsibilities with payment linked to output has extended from the poorly mechanized areas to the highly mechanized areas; from the poor outlying areas to the coastal developed areas and suburban areas of large cities; and from the villages and brigades with a weak collective economic basis to those with a strong collective economic basis. So far,

the system of contracted responsibilities with payment linked to output has been popularized among the people engaged in farming and it is now extending to the fields of forestry, animal husbandry, the aquatic products industry, and other industries and sideline occupations. After implementing the system of contracted responsibilities on the household basis, with payment linked to output, the peasants have attained the self-determination rights in operation and full play has been given to the role of household operation and the superiority of integrating unified and decentralized management. The peasant households are intensively cultivating their land and the yield per unit area of agricultural crops has increased by a big margin, of which the average output of grain per mu in 1982 increased by 13 percent over the previous year. The form of integrating unified and decentralized management has proved that it can bring about tremendous economic results.

Notable results have been achieved after implementing the policies for arousing the production initiative of the peasants formulated since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee. Never before have the peasants been so enthusiastic in learning science, technology, and management, and in striving to become rich through labor. Along with the development of production, the living standard of the peasants has also markedly improved. Of the 204,000 peasant households under the survey, the average net incomes per capita of under 100 yuan constituted less than 20 percent (in the past, those earning less than 50 yuan constituted 20 percent): around one-third of the peasant households earned an average income of over 300 yuan per capita. Viewed from the sale of commodities, bank savings, consumption structure, and so on, the rural areas have now entered a new stage of development.

2. The Rural Economy Is Now Being Transformed From Self-sufficient and Semiself-sufficient Economy to Commodity Economy, and the Business of Engaging in Specialized Jobs and in a Multiplicity of Occupations Besides Farming and Socialized Production Has Developed in Varying Degrees

According to the statistics in the survey, the proportion of income of all kinds of peasant households in farming to their total income was as follows: specialized households around one-fifth of the total, well-off households around one-third, and poor peasant households around two-thirds; whereas the proportion of income of peasant households engaged in animal husbandry and breeding, industry, mining, construction and transportation, processing industry and commerce, and service trades markedly increased. The specialized households engaged in the production of commodity grain and the major and specialized households engaged in diversified economy have developed at a relatively fast speed. A considerable number of farm laborers are transferring to occupations other than "farming." There have now emerged a number of a new type of peasant who are paying more attention to market information and scientific and technological information, who dare to explore and open up new production fields, and who have the foresight and courage of commodity producers. This shows that in China, the rural areas are being transformed from self-sufficient economy and semiself-sufficient economy to commodity economy, as pointed out in the No 1 document of the CPC Central Committee. The progress of transformation differs in various places. Generally speaking, the coastal areas that are highly developed in economy are faster than the

inland areas where the economy is rather underdeveloped; the plain and hilly areas are faster than the mountainous areas: and the areas where the average possession of farmland per capita is low are faster than those in which it is high. Due to various reasons, the development of remote mountainous areas is rather slow and the increase in peasant income lags behind that of other areas. This merits attention.

3. The Expansion of the Scale of Land Management of Contracted Households and the Development of Diversified Economy Is Mutually Causal and Is a Natural Process of Development Which Must not Be Arbitrarily Handled

The development of all kinds of major and specialized households has promoted the division of labor in society and enlarged the range of social employment in rural areas. The development of specialized households engaged in the production of grain has, in particular, displayed a major role in changing extensive farming to intensive farming and low yield fields to high yield fields, which has raised the commodity rate of grain production in China. At present, the peasants of a number of places have put forward new demands, that is, on the premise of maintaining their self-determination rights, they are seeking "large-scale" economic results. According to the results of the survey, because some economically developed areas contracted the land, adopted the forms of contracting specialized jobs and overall management of scattered pieces of land on an appropriate scale, the results they achieved were far better than before and the peasants were quite satisfied. There were also some places that adopted the method of contracting an average amount of land. As a result, the land was used in a rather fragmentary way. The average amount of land contracted by each household was 11 pieces, in hilly land, 15 pieces; the average area contracted by each household was 7 mu 4 fen, and for each laborer, 3 mu. This method of contracting land in such a scattered manner and the limited scale of management caused inconvenience in irrigation, applying fertilizer, popularizing new techniques, utilizing farm machines, and preventing diseases and insect pests, which also restricted the development of farming toward specialization and socialization. Those peasants who are good at farming stated that under the present production and technical conditions, they could farm 300-400 percent more land than the amount they have contracted at present. Therefore, they demanded appropriately to enlarge the scale of management and to increase manpower, so as to provide society with more commodities and to gain a better income. Meanwhile, there are also some peasant households that are willing to contract industry and sideline occupations instead of farmland. Therefore, we can expand the scale of the available land by certain reasonable means of transferring the possession of land and transferring the contracted land, so that the limited land can be concentrated in the hands of those who are good at farming. This will be advantageous to intensive farming and will also be helpful to other peasant households in carrying out other occupations besides farming or specialized jobs. Such work on readjusting the employment structure of the social labor force will become a new subject in further perfecting the system of contracted responsibilities with payment linked to output.

The data of the survey also proved that the expansion of the scale of land management of the households assuming contracted responsibilities and the

development of diversified economy is mutually causal and is a natural process of development which must not be arbitrarily handled. We must, on a completely voluntary basis, try to seek a transfer method that suits local conditions and can take into account the various interests, so that it is not only advantageous to the rationalization of the scale of land management, but also helpful to the peasants in making investment in land.

4. The Rapid Development of Rural Commodity Production Urgently Demands the Speeding Up of Reform of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives at Basic Levels, and the Strengthening of Market and Price Control

The markets in the vast rural areas have never been so flourishing as at present. Now the number of collective and individual commercial households has already exceeded the number before the transformation of the privately owned industrial and commercial enterprises in the 1950's. Many of the places that were originally not markets have now turned into new markets. Stalls are set up on both sides of the streets, providing a lively scene. The thriving situation in rural markets reflects a considerable development in rural commodity production and the peasants' increasing purchasing power. In order to suit the developing needs of rural commodity economy, the reform of the supply and marketing cooperative system is now being carried out in various places. Some of the supply and marketing cooperatives that have done a good job in reform played a leading role in facilitating commodity circulation, promoting the development of rural economy, and so on. However, there are also some state commercial shops and supply and marketing cooperatives that have not adapted their work style to the new situation. In addition, the transportation system is backward and there is a lack of transport facilities. Consequently, the peasants find it difficult to purchase goods and sell their products. The peasants' complaints of the difficulties in selling their grain, cotton, tobacco, mountain products, and special local products could be heard everywhere. Therefore, they demand the urgent strengthening of market forecasts, the offering to them of market information without delay, a speeding up of the reform of supply and marketing cooperatives, and acceleration in the building of communications and transportation.

While the peasants' production initiative has been raised and their income increased, there is a serious shortage of supply in chemical fertilizer, diesel oil, highly effective and low toxin farm chemicals, and other agricultural means of production. The supply in many places cannot even meet half or two-thirds of the needs. Some lawless people try to seize the opportunity to raise their prices and reap profits without lifting a finger. The unhealthy tendencies in distribution are also prominent. Those peasants who do not have "relationships" have to purchase at a high price the production materials that are in short supply. As a result, their production costs increase, which evokes strong repercussions. Therefore, it is essential to increase the manufacture and supply of agricultural means of production, and, at the same time, to strengthen control over the markets and prices, to deal seriously with the unhealthy tendencies in distribution, and to attack the lawless elements.

5. The Emergence of Specialized Households Engaged in Animal Husbandry Gives Rise to the Problem of Developing the Fodder Industry

The emergence of specialized households engaged in animal husbandry has brought new vitality to the development of animal husbandry in China. Live-stock raising by scattered peasant households in the past is now gradually developing toward the scale of enterprise raising.

At present, the vast numbers of peasants are in urgent need of more mixed feed that is of good quality and low in price. The peasants have complained that the fodder varieties are few, the quality is inferior, the composition perfect enough, and the price unreasonable. Because factories have not controlled the quality of the fodder they produce, nor had any special departments to supervise and check the chemical examination, the energy and protein of the processed mixed fodder has sometimes been high and sometimes low, and even mouldy grain has been used to process fodder. Some commune- and brigade-run enterprises have mixed their fishmeal products with other false ingredients to deceive the peasant households. Some have tried to mix their products with urea to increase the content of protein. Consequently, the poultry have been poisoned with such feed. The peasants say that the brilliant policy of the CPC Central Committee on energetically developing the fodder industry is an important measure for accelerating the development of animal husbandry. It would be impossible for the specialized households engaged in animal husbandry to make further progress without the supply of fodder. A fodder production and supply center should be set up among every 10,000 peasant households. It is expected that the leading departments concerned will pay close attention to this matter.

6. Attaching Importance to Rural Culture and Education and To Improving the Quality of the Rural Population Is the Fundamental Measure for Accelerating the Attainment of the "Two Transformations" in China's Rural Areas

The work of improving the educational level of hundreds of millions of peasants is a task which brooks no delay and is closely related to the "two transformations" in rural areas. Due to their low educational level, it was difficult for the peasants to accept outside information by means of books, newspapers and other channels, and to widen their scope of vision. Those peasant households subscribing to scientific and technological periodicals at their own expense constituted only 5 percent of the total number of households. The educational level of specialized and well-off households was higher than that of ordinary peasant households. According to the statistics of the survey, the proportion of those having junior high school educational level to the members of the household was as follows: specialized households, 36.9 percent; well-off households, 40.3 percent; and poor peasant households, 18.2 percent. The reason the specialized and well-off households could embark on the road of developing specialized jobs and commodity economy earlier and faster than others is that their relatively high educational level played an indispensable role.

It is thus obvious that strengthening cultural and educational undertakings in rural areas, enhancing technical training, increasing the supply and distribution of books and periodicals, upgrading the scientific and technological and management level of peasants is one of the fundamental measures for accelerating the attainment of the "two transformations" in rural areas.

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ROLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RECLAMATION ANALYZED

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[Article by Hu Zhong [5170 0022], Chinese Institute of Agricultural Reclamation Economics]

[Text] I. The Position and Role of Agricultural Reclamation in China's National Economy

The position and role of agricultural reclamation in China's national economy is a question we must analyze and answer as we deliberate and implement the strategic objectives, priorities and specific measures of the national economic construction set forth by the 12th CPC National Congress. The only way to arrive at a consensus on the future development of the agricultural reclamation economy is to get to the heart of this particular question.

The ratio of the agricultural reclamation economy in China's national economy has not been very impressive. The gross industrial and agricultural output value of agricultural reclamation in 1980 was 10 billion yuan, which is only 1.4 percent of the gross national industrial and agricultural output value of 710 billion yuan, or 5 percent of the gross national agricultural output value.

Does this mean that the agricultural reclamation economy is unimportant and does not have a decisive bearing on China's national economy? We do not believe that is true.

First of all, many reclamation enterprises are scattered in distant frontier regions, virgin wasteland and sparsely populated areas where reclamation depends on state investment, reclamation troops and support-frontier youths. Today there are still vast areas of wasteland awaiting exploration, including not only the huge plains of the northeast and Xinjiang but also several million mu of barren hilly land in densely populated Zhejiang. One of the major problems is that the local communes and production teams do not have the capability to reclaim and utilize the land.

Second, agricultural reclamation is a gigantic enterprise of the entire national economy. It has 5 million staff and workers committed to over 66 million mu of cultivated land populated by 11 million people. Its cultivated

land almost equals the area of Anhui Province (66,693,000 mu), and its per capita output value of 1980 was 880 yuan (based on 1980 constant price), 24 percent more than the national average which was 710 yuan. Compared with the gross national agricultural output value, it exceeded the national per capita agricultural output value, which was 270 yuan in 1980, by 226 percent. Compared with the output value of several major industries, the 1980 gross reclamation industrial and agricultural output value (based on 1970 constant price) was equal to that of the coal industry (11.4 billion yuan), that of the agricultural machinery industry (8.66 billion yuan), and that of the forest industry (8.66 billion yuan), but higher than that of the paper making industry (6.41 billion yuan).

Third, the economic weight of the reclamation sectors occupies a significant and even decisive position in the economy of some provinces and regions. In Heilongjiang, the cultivated land area of the reclaimed region is one-fourth of that of the province. In 1980, it turned over to the state 3.9 billion jin of commodities, which equals 4.9 times the 800 million jin of contracted grain turned over by Heilongjiang to the central government. The gross industrial and agricultural output value (based on 1970 constant price) of the Xinjiang reclamation region equals one-fourth of that of the entire autonomous region. The state farm of Inner Mongolia which has only 2 percent of the farm labor of the entire autonomous region produced and sold over 10 percent of the commodity grain and over 20 percent of the commodity wheat of the whole region.

Fourth, the reclamation regions produce over 90 percent of certain commodities, such as dry glue, in the whole country. They supply one-fourth of the milk produced in the whole country. The milk consumed in Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin comes almost entirely from the agricultural reclamation centers which also provide most of the milk consumed in the capital cities of the various provinces and regions. Most of the powdered milk consumed in some provinces is produced by the agricultural reclamation sectors. The facts above only describe the position of agricultural reclamation in China's national economy, and do not cover its unique position in national and border defense and in supporting the construction of the minority nationality regions.

The unique position of agricultural reclamation makes the reclamation regions the production base of commodity grain, economic crops and other agricultural and animal products, and the bases for processing agricultural, pastoral and sideline products. Since the reclamation farms rank above ordinary farms in technical equipment, business management, technical staff and labor productivity, and are better prepared to adopt new technology, they play a leading role model in the pursuit of the modernization, specialization, socialization and commercialization of China's agriculture, and in bringing about economic coordination with the rural communes, production teams, specialized households and units.

II. The Strategic Objective of Quadrupling Gross Industrial and Agricultural Output Value of the Agricultural Reclamation System by the End of This Century

The strategic objective of China's economic construction charted by the 12th CPC National Congress is to strive under the premise of rising economic

effectiveness to quadruple gross national industrial and agricultural output value by the year 2000. Of course, the struggle to quadruple the gross industrial and agricultural output value does not necessarily apply to all trades, industries and localities. However, judging by past experience and the trend of agricultural reclamation since the 3d Plenum of the 11th CPC Central Committee, the gross annual industrial and agricultural output value of the agricultural reclamation system might quadruple, and we must strive to realize it.

History tells us that in the 28 years between 1953 and 1980, in spite of the mistakes of the 10 years of internal turmoil, the gross agricultural output value of the agricultural reclamation system showed an annual increase of 16.3 percent by the 1980 constant price. If the gross industrial and agricultural output value were to quadruple between 1980 and 2000, the annual average increase is 7.2 percent. That is a below-normal pace of increase, and it should not be difficult to achieve.

In fact, there are recent instances where some agricultural reclamation enterprises have actually doubled or even quadrupled their gross output value in 3 years. The gross industrial and agricultural output value of the Zhejiang agricultural reclamation enterprises indeed doubled in 3 years. The gross industrial and agricultural output value of its 71 agricultural reclamation enterprises was 130 million yuan in 1981, a 101 percent rise over that of 1978, which was 65.89 million yuan. Take a municipality for example. The gross industrial and agricultural output value of the city of Chongqing was 42 million yuan in 1981, an increase of 103 percent over that of 1979, which was 20.65 million yuan. It doubled in 2 years. There are many more farms which have doubled their output value. If the agricultural reclamation enterprises in the next 5 years could begin doubling their gross industrial and agricultural output value from where it stood in 1980, we would be able to achieve the objective of quadrupling the gross industrial and agricultural output value of the agricultural reclamation system by the year 2000.

III. Strategic Measures To Achieve the Objective of Developing Agricultural Reclamation

Many comrades have studied the strategic measures for developing agricultural reclamation, and the following are my personal views.

1. The key issue is the development of productivity. The discussions on the strategic priorities of agricultural development at the most recent symposium of the Chinese Agricultural Economics Society at Hefei called for redirection of priorities from emphasizing agricultural production relations to development of productivity in order to induce readjustment of production relations, and from semiself-sustaining single product operations to diversified and commodity-oriented operations. The strategic priority of developing agricultural reclamation should focus on increasing productivity. We should strive to construct in China several large-scale modern commodity-production centers. For instance, the Heilongjiang reclamation region may serve as a processing center for grain, sugar, animal products and foodstuffs. The Xinjiang

reclamation region should be a processing center for grain, cotton, sugar, animal products, cotton spinning and foodstuffs. The Inner Mongolia reclamation region should serve as a processing center for animal husbandry, grain and animal products. Guangdong and Yunnan should be the production centers of natural rubber and other tropical crops. The state farms in the suburbs of large and medium cities should be the production centers of nonstaple foodstuffs which the people need, such as milk, eggs, fish, vegetables and fruits. The state farms of other provinces and regions should produce their unique commodities. New reclamation regions and farms should be established in these localities with wasteland, such as the estuary of the Huanghe River in Shandong, the coastal areas of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, and the Hexi Corridor of Gansu.

2. Arouse the enthusiasm of the 5 million staff and workers. Since the development of agricultural reclamation depends on its 5 million staff and workers, it is vitally important to arouse their enthusiasm. This calls for the establishment of sound leadership for the enterprise by better collective leadership of the CPC party committee, democratic management of the staff and workers, and administrative command of the farm director. Do away with the evil of "eating out of a large communal pot" and egalitarianism; link the economic benefits of the staff and workers to the success and failure of the enterprise. The responsibility system of contracting for joint production by households currently implemented in the villages has a tremendous impact on the state farms. The question it poses is: What kind of responsibility system should the state farms have? The responsibility systems currently used today by the state farms vary from floating wages, specialization contracting by individuals and households, and assignment of jobs to each household. Personally, I think any responsibility system is acceptable as long as it meets production requirements and the wishes of the staff and workers. The leadership of each farm should capitalize on the local situation, learn by experience, and should not impose rigid rules to ban or promote any particular system. Let actual practice be the judge and permit everyone to experiment. Then find out and sum up the experience of the masses. Tackle new problems promptly, and bring the creativity of the masses into play. The requirements of a responsibility system should be parceled out from the top down to the cells and individuals. Develop diversified specialization households and units, especially in the breeding industry and economic crops which have achieved rewarding results by contracting out completely to the specialized households, or "letting households raise what the state owns" or "letting households raise what the state breeds." Today, the responsibility system based on contracting for joint production by households, a form of double contracting, has been quite successful on some farms, not only in arousing the enthusiasm of the staff and workers and enhancing the development of production, but also in cutting down cost and increasing income. Of course all the responsibility systems must be so structured as to handle properly the relationship between the state, the collective, and the individuals. Planting should be done in accordance with state plans, and the principal products should be handled by the enterprises concerned. Take positive measures to promote production by the collective ownership, even though production by individuals should receive due encouragement. The household sideline production

of the staff and workers should be more liberalized. Some localities have tried to restrict household sideline production on farms. In fact, the development of household sideline production is beneficial to the state, the enterprise itself, and the staff and workers. The private plots of staff and workers in some localities where conditions permit should be expanded to allow the elderly, the physically weak and retired staff and workers and their dependents to engage in household sideline production.

3. Count on the existing enterprises to tap their potentials and launch innovations and reforms. What can help agricultural reclamation achieve a new breakthrough? It depends mainly on the existing enterprises to tap their potentials and launch innovations and reforms. This is what we call intensive development of the economy. Many comrades admit that the state farms have tremendous potentials. However, as we are used to extensive expansion of reproduction, it is not easy to switch to intensive development of reproduction. What are the potentials of agricultural reclamation? In the first place, the croplands, lacking proper capital construction, are low and unstable in per-unit yield. According to statistics, the per-mu yield of reclaimed grain and bean cropland in 1979 was 289 jin, or 52.7 percent of the national farmland average, which was 566 jin per mu. Of course the reclaimed croplands are mostly in distant border areas, and that is partly responsible for the low yield of the grain and bean cropland. But the lack of proper capital construction of the cropland is another major contributing factor. The ratio of all-weather stable high-yield reclaimed cropland is only 8.4 percent of the area of all cultivated land, or 14.4 percent below the national ratio, which is 22.8 percent. The area of effectively irrigated reclaimed cropland is 33.6 percent of the area of all cultivated land, or 11.6 percent below the national ratio of 45.2 percent. The capital construction of the reclaimed croplands is not well coordinated, and this is true of those farms reclaimed over 20 years ago. So, there is still room to increase the per-mu yield. In the second place, the natural resources of the reclaimed farms have not been fully utilized. Today, the total area of reclaimed land is 440 million mu, of which a little more than 66 million mu is cropland, a little more than 30 million mu is forest land, 5 million mu is rubber plantations, a little more than 1.8 million mu is mulberry and tea groves, and 190 million mu is grassland (only 90 million mu is being used). There is more than 100 million mu of barren hills and wasteland. We must keep in mind the total area, and not just the area of cultivated land, and extend our vision to the wealth hidden in the mountains, rivers and croplands, and guide our thinking to the coordination of agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry. Third, agricultural reclamation has reached a new stage of technological renewal and transformation. As a rule, large-scale renewal of fixed assets is usually the beginning of economic growth. Nearly one-half of China's industrial facilities are due for renewal, and the percentage is even higher with the equipment of the agricultural reclamation system. According to the findings of the Friendship Farm of Heilongjiang, its farm machines are abandoned and resurrected products of the 1950's. When a mechanized farm like the Friendship Farm is as backward as that, the rest could not be any better, if not any worse. Consequently, the renewal of farm machinery and the renewal of industrial facilities are the major areas for intensive economic development in the agricultural reclamation system.

To emphasize intensive development does not mean to overlook extensive expansion of reproduction because planned reclamation of wasteland is still necessary. But the reclamation of wasteland depends on the reclaimed farms, and reclamation construction should be based on natural resources surveys and planning, especially including ecological balance, water and soil conservation, and the protection of water resources.

4. Handle well the joint agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises. To launch diversified operations for joint agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises should be the objective of developing agricultural reclamation. Consequently, both production and business operations should receive equal attention, and economic effectiveness should be the primary concern of the diversified operations and the joint agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises. Every enterprise should earn profit. Those operations which provide the daily necessities of the staff and workers should be run strictly on a business basis. An enterprise which loses money is simply doomed. The foodstuff and animal-feed industries are the most promising industrial items of the agricultural reclamation system. The gross output value of the agricultural reclamation food industry in 1981 was 1.4 billion yuan, or 34 percent of the gross industrial output value of the entire agricultural reclamation industry. Being the fastest growing sector of the industry of the agricultural reclamation system, its volume of production in 1981 rose 24 percent over that of 1980. As for commerce, the central government has decided to scrap the state monopoly of commerce, and allow peasants and farms to engage in business. It can be foreseen that the joint agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises of the agricultural reclamation system will no doubt achieve a new breakthrough.

5. Develop economic cooperation with the rural communes, production teams, specialized households and units. In the past 2 years, some state farms launched economic cooperation with the rural communes and production teams. For instance, the Changjiang Joint Agricultural, Industrial and Commercial Co of Chongqing has been cooperating with more than 1,000 production teams to produce such commodities as oranges, tea and milk. Its Changshouhu Fishery is working with nearby production teams and specialized households to run eight small dairies which produce over 600,000 jin of fresh milk each year. These joint ventures with the communes, production teams, specialized households and units, designed to develop commodity production, are voluntary and mutual benefiting associations to provide preproduction and postproduction services, including supply and marketing, processing, storage, shipping, technology, financing, seeding and breeding, to enhance the processing and reproduction of products. This kind of economic cooperation which promotes the production of commercial goods by the villages and the revitalization of the rural economy also induces further development of the state farms.

6. Strive to invest in brain power and the training of knowledgeable personnel. The most urgent task in developing the reclamation farms is to invest in brain power and the training of knowledgeable personnel. Educational reform, the training of staff and workers, and the rearing of scientific and technical personnel are being actively pursued. The crucial point in the reform of the

middle school education in the reclamation regions is to speed up the conversion of the existing middle schools into vocational middle schools. The farms may hire qualified vocational senior middle school graduates to meet their needs. This will blend together educational reform and the placement of job-seeking youths. The qualified vocational senior middle school graduates hired by the farms would improve the quality and educational level of their staff and workers. Investigate and work out a flawless policy to stabilize the contingents of scientific and technical personnel, to carry out the policy toward the intellectuals, and to resolve the problem of the exodus of the reclamation scientific and technical personnel. The rearing of knowledgeable personnel and investment in brain power are basic tasks to be pursued seriously.

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CSO: 4007/130

COMMENTATOR ON MORE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM

Beijing NONGCUN GONGZUO TONGXUN [RURAL WORK NEWSLETTER] in Chinese No 1, 1983
pp 13-15

[Article by "Commentator": "Further Improve the Agricultural Production Responsibility System"]

[Text] The universal implementation of the agricultural production responsibility system has already become an immense motive force for expanding China's agricultural production and has created a new situation in the rural economy. The agricultural production responsibility system is being continually improved through the practice of the masses. A variety of production contracting systems have already become the primary forms of the agricultural production responsibility system. In the past, people considered that production contract responsibility systems which took the peasant household or small group as the unit were simplified methods suitable only for impoverished prefectures with a low level of production. However, the experience of such economically developed prefectures as Jiaying in Zhejiang Province and Yixing in Jiangsu Province proved that the production contract responsibility system is for the most part not limited by the level of production capabilities or the extent of diversified operations, but can be used by different kinds of prefectures; the principle remains the same and only the specific form may differ. In order to continue creating a new situation, further improving the agricultural production responsibility system remains the main task of current work in the countryside.

Correctly handling the relationship between centralized activities and activities distributed among the households is the key to improving the agricultural production responsibility system; we must more effectively relate distributed operations to centralized operations, and individual motivation to the advantages of the collective. In the case of communes and brigades which are still too rigidly controlled and in which the responsibility system is not sufficiently well implemented, we should institute discussions between the cadres and the masses, further liberate thinking, and boldly contract under various forms for the performance of farm work which is suitable for management at the individual, household or group level in order to bring into play the masses' sense of responsibility as proprietors and thoroughly mobilize everyone's activism. In communes and brigades which manage operations household by household, we should attach importance to effective handling of

leftover problems, and after summarizing experience we should focus on utilizing the positive features of the centralized activities. When there are difficulties in completing tasks assigned down to the individual laborer, household or group level, economic accounting is not being carried out and the masses are requesting centralized operations, such as mechanical plowing, irrigation and drainage, insect control, seed production, dissemination of technology and the like, we should make effective arrangements for overall planning or contract these types of work out to specialized workers or groups for performance and draft service regulations to cover them. Tasks suited to centralized performance should be carried out in centralized fashion, and those suitable for individual contracting should be individually contracted, so that there are both centralized and distributed tasks. Contracting is used to link together centralized and distributed activities.

We must take a conscientious approach to signing and honoring contracts. All forms of the production contract responsibility system involve commitments by the household or group to the production team or brigade for production, procurement or remittances and specify the relationship between the various responsibilities, rights and interests via the contract form. Signing and honoring contracts involves duties and rights for both parties, and they both take on responsibilities. The contract provisions must be clear and specific, and if the contract is signed it must be honored by both parties. Contracts under the production responsibility system affect the interests of the state, the collective, and the commune member alike, and they must be dealt with conscientiously and strictly so that the interests of all three parties are taken into consideration, rather than focusing on only one of the parties. We emphasize that they must take account both of the individual commune members' interests and of the collective's interests and the overall interests of national construction; they must consider both short-term and long-term interests; they must encourage and utilize all special skills and promote prosperity through labor, and must also take account of the common prosperity of the majority. The key is effective ideological and political work. General operating guidelines must respect commune and brigade autonomy, but at the same time they must provide education in making the planned economy primary and submitting to state plan guidance and must not advocate blind planting according to individual wishes. In the development of production, we must not again make the mistakes of failing to make allowances for the masses' current condition of life while forcing the pace of capital construction, nor must we neglect the needs of expanded reproduction and capital construction. We must resolutely put a stop to indiscriminate cutting of forests. In relation to the distribution of profits, we must conduct education in patriotism and love of the collective, assure completion of all state procurement plans, make a greater contribution, and assure payment of the necessary remittances to the collective.

The collective property that has been accumulated since cooperativization is the principal means of developing production and is a productive force that has already come into being. In carrying out the responsibility system, we must conscientiously assure that this property is used effectively. Any of the collective's water conservancy installations, large-size agricultural equipment, industrial and sideline equipment and the like that is damaged must

be repaired and used; the remainder which has been kept in good condition should be cared for and operated by specialists, using such methods as the specialized contract to assure its thorough utilization. All fixed assets should be inventoried and recorded, and those which should not have been distributed should be recovered or their value in labor recovered. Assets suitable for decentralized management should be evaluated and depreciation costs collected. When equipment has already been turned over to the commune members at a specific valuation, this amount should be recovered in installments. We must continue to consolidate financial affairs, take stock of property and materials, clarify debts receivable and debts payable, close out old accounts, and develop methods of handling them and announce them to the commune members. Once this is done, a financial management system suited to the production responsibility system should be drafted and new accounts set up.

When implementing the production contract responsibility system, we must see to it that land is assigned in a rational way. When first setting up the production responsibility system, because of a lack of experience some land was not rationally assigned or it was assigned in too small parcels, so that careful readjustment is required. Currently, because the peasants' "fear of the new" has not been eliminated, a careful, prudent approach to land readjustment should be taken. The commune members should be given a firm conception of the system of public ownership of land; the readjustment method may take a variety of forms: e.g. regulation in terms of contracted output, in which smaller amounts of good land and larger amounts of poor land are assigned; or regulation in terms of the deduction percentage, in which a higher deduction collective levy is collected for good land and a lower deduction for poor land; or regulation in terms of balanced distribution, in which commune members for who contract for more work on the land may contract for less of other types of work, or none at all. If the land distribution is basically rational and the masses do not request changes, then changes should not be made lightly. We must be aware that as a result of increases or decreases in population, changes in the nature of operations or production conditions and the like, after a certain period of time there will certainly need to be readjustments on some of the land; it will be necessary to resolve these contradictions at the right moment. In dealing with this question we must proceed in terms of the actual local conditions and discuss them thoroughly with the masses. During readjustment it must be borne in mind that when commune members have converted poor land into good land, they should be given a suitable subsidy out of the collective levy; in cases where trees have been cut down at the edge of the fields, it must be clearly announced that cutting them is forbidden, and reparations should be exacted at rational valuation. Every inch of land must be cherished and protected, the use of land for building houses must be restricted, and uncultivated hills, slopes, other land and water areas must be reclaimed in order to create more wealth for society.

We must encourage and support specialized households and key households and aid and support households that are in difficulties. Currently, specialized and key households in the countryside are divided into two classes: the first comprises specialized and key households which contract with the production team or brigade for specialized production; the second is specialized and key households running their own business which have developed on the basis of

household and sideline production. Because our production conditions are limited, most specialized and key households are also working on the land at some time, and as production develops, some of them may wish to do less contracting for work on the land or none at all, and will gradually cease doing work on the land to concentrate their efforts on developing their specialized production, while some others may become specialized households which are working more land, forest, or water areas. This is a relatively long-term development process, and it will not happen quickly. But generally the production results of specialized and key households are good, their commodity percentage is high, they foster thorough utilization of scattered manpower and funds, and they make use of the various types of skills in the countryside. This is the embryo form of our rural economy's development toward specialization and socialization. We should encourage and support specialized and key households in developing production and give them aid in terms of funds, technology, supply and marketing, epidemic protection and good seeds. We must summarize and disseminate their techniques and experience and mobilize more commune members to develop production and become prosperous through labor. At the same time, we must not forget the households which are in difficulties, which lack manpower, skills and funds: we must warmly help them solve their production and living difficulties, establish a system of cadre contacts with households, and create the conditions for the common prosperity.

We must solve effectively the economic problems of all classes of personnel. Brigades which implement unified operations, specialization and division of labor, and compensation in terms of output, or which develop from this basis to distribution based on performance contracts, must make thorough use of everyone's special abilities and embody the principle of distribution according to labor and more pay for more work, while in addition they must take account of the activism of personnel in all trades and maintain equality of compensation for those in all trade who perform equal amounts of labor. In the brigades which implement household-level contracting, when there is also income from centralized industry and sidelines, or when commune and brigade enterprises do not return a profit, they must deal effectively with the problem of rational compensation and distribution for personnel in all categories. The masses have worked out many approaches in these areas which should be further summarized and improved. The compensation of cadres, teachers in schools run by the people, barefoot doctors and the like should be linked to responsibility systems for them; and the supplying of "five guarantee" households, the care of "four category" households and households in financial difficulty, family planning work and the like all must be handled on an individual basis and must be included in the annual responsibility contracts; this work should be done several times a year and should be overseen and guided by the leadership at the various levels.

A variety of new economic combinations involving different types of activities, different management forms and different subordination systems have emerged in the countryside. These combinations have developed on the basis of voluntarism and mutual benefit, and they are a necessary requirement of the development of commodity production; as production develops further, some of them will gradually develop into cooperative economies. We must deal correctly with this new development and support and guide them in energetically developing

production, subject to the requirements of the state plan and the laws. In particular, the various types of companies and service centers which support production, circulation and technology dissemination, such as seed companies, plant protection companies, processing companies, machine cultivating stations, technology dissemination stations and the like, have created a production situation involving division of labor and differentiation of trades, and they should be supported and encouraged. Everything possible should be done to help them resolve any difficulties with production, technology, funds, living conditions and the like which they have encountered. The various service companies and service centers must strive to develop their work, improve their economic results, draft production service pledges that will be welcomed by the masses, and win a good reputation with the masses by good service, high efficiency and real economic benefits.

When implementing the agricultural production responsibility system, the mass of rural cadres have followed the spirit of the Third Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee, and have liberated their thinking, investigated boldly, and done a great deal of work. The excellent situation that has now emerged is directly associated with the assiduous labor of cadres at all levels in the countryside. But because of the long-standing influence of "left" errors, many comrades have long been accustomed to a purely administrative style of work and lack the necessary ideological preparation for this great change; some of them even are skeptical, are looking on from the sidelines, are wavering, or are opposed to it. In operations management, many comrades can only deal with matters in a centralized fashion according to the old methods; they do everything in a centralized way, are afraid to or unable to use contracting, and are even more incapable of working to combine centralized operations with contracting and to proceed in accordance with the local situation. Many people are capable of mastering production but incapable of or not good at mastering management, or can master a single-type operation but cannot master or are not good at mastering diversified operations. When improving the agricultural production responsibility system, we must train the cadres at all levels: not only must we master all agricultural economic policies from the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee on, but in addition we must teach them concrete methods of improving all forms of production responsibility systems, mastering operations management, mastering production and mastering ideological and political work. Only after we have armed the rural cadres and have improved the production responsibility system can we fully carry out the militant assignment of further creating a new situation in agriculture.

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CSO: 4007/141

TRIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW COMMUNE, BRIGADE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM ANNOUNCED

Beijing GONGSHE CAIWU [COMMUNE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS] in Chinese No 11, 6 Nov 82
pp 2-5

[Article: "Strengthen Development of the Commune and Brigade Bookkeeping and Accounting System and Do Effective Accounting Work," and text of "Notice on Trial Implementation of the 'Agricultural Commune and Brigade Accounting System'"]

[Text] The document "The Agricultural Commune and Brigade Accounting System," drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, the Ministry of Finance and the China Agricultural Bank, has been officially issued for trial implementation. This is one of the most important documents of the period since agricultural cooperativization was instituted in China; it is handed down in the form of a relatively complete system in order to guide agricultural commune and brigade bookkeeping and accounting work, and is a basis for strengthening the development of agricultural commune and brigade bookkeeping and accounting and carrying out effective bookkeeping and accounting work.

In recent years, because the localities have conscientiously implemented the central government guidelines, policies and measures on developing agriculture and have carried out readjustment and restructuring of the rural economy, and because the agricultural communes and brigades have implemented various forms of the production responsibility system, the enthusiasm of the 800 million peasants has been mobilized and the rapid development of the agricultural economy has been stimulated. Accounting is an important component of economic management and is the "chief of staff" of operations management. Running the economy effectively is inseparable from accounting; the more the economy develops, the more important accounting becomes. This is an objective law. As the rural economy has developed, and particularly as various economic responsibility systems have been instituted everywhere, the forms of operation, management techniques and distribution forms in agriculture have undergone major changes. The bookkeeping system and accounting methods which were set up in the past based on a model involving centralized operations, centralized distribution and centralized accounting are now rather unsuited to the present-day conditions in many respects. Therefore, it is extremely important to implement suitable reforms based on the characteristics of the different operating methods and forms of distribution in the various types of

responsibility systems so that they better serve the collective economy under these types of responsibility systems.

Some people believe that since household-level contracting has already become the main form of the agricultural responsibility system and since operations are distributed to the households, which themselves take the profit or loss, the collective need not engage in bookkeeping or keep accounts. This idea has developed primarily because of a misunderstanding of the household-level contracting responsibility system, and it is at odds with the objective situation. When the agricultural communes and brigades implemented various types of production responsibility systems, the nature of the collective economy was not altered. No matter what type of responsibility system a commune or brigade has instituted, it still is the owner of land and other basic means of production and the organizer and manager of production operations under state plan guidance; there are no exceptions in this respect. But because bookkeeping and accounting methods are restricted by the method of operations and the form of distribution, the requirements of these different methods and forms regarding accounting differ. The responsibility systems which now exist in different prefectures, communes and brigades go under a multitude of names and have their own specific characteristics. In national terms, they will coexist for a long time; but from the point of view of the individual communes and brigades, they will be continually changing.

They will always have many forms within a given prefecture, commune or even a given brigade. Therefore, while adhering to the principle that the collective economy must independently carry on bookkeeping and accounting of receipts, expenditures and distribution, in view of the current diversity of operating methods and distribution forms under the various economic responsibility systems, the new accounting system makes rather comprehensive allowance for the needs of unified accounting in the context of unified operations and unified distribution as regards the scope of accounting for receipts, expenditures and distribution, bookkeeping headings, the organization of account books and the like. Likewise, it provides flexible regulations for the needs of contract accounting in the case of centralized operations and a "contract" distribution form, and for the needs of contracted payments to higher levels and collective levies in cases where operations are distributed among the households and the distribution form is based on these types of payments. In this way it links a centralized character based on the principle of bookkeeping and accounting in the collective economy with flexibility in specific utilization, which inevitably increases the adaptability of the bookkeeping system, while preserving a certain amount of stability. Therefore, it is well suited for centralized training and guidance of bookkeeping personnel and for centralized printing of account books and statistical forms, and it helps obtain accounting data in a standardized form; in addition it helps strengthen financial management and accounting work and allows the individual communes and brigades to choose among alternatives according to their own needs.

A great many occurrences since the implementation of the production responsibility system make it clear that if the agricultural communes and brigades

do not closely follow the requirements of the production responsibility system (including household-level contracting) and do not conscientiously strengthen their finance and accounting work, the responsibility systems that have already been established will not be able to stabilize and improve, and the collective economy will not be able to become consolidated and develop. Therefore, all of us rural operations management cadres and commune and brigade accounting personnel must achieve a clear understanding of the situation and make an effort to delve deeply into our work. We must not only learn to further improve operations accounting methods under centralized operating conditions, but in particular we must learn economic accounting methods in the case of operations distribution among the households; we not only must learn accounting in the account books, but also accounting outside of the account books; we must not only learn these things ourselves, but we must make the relevant cadres and commune members understand them. This is a new, arduous and glorious task imposed upon us by the new situation in rural economic development.

In our trial implementation of the "Agricultural Commune and Brigade Accounting System," we must follow the principle of linking centralized, unified guidance with level-by-level management in accordance with local conditions. In order to consolidate and develop the collective agricultural economy and make thorough use of the feedback and oversight functions of accounting work, the new accounting system has laid down uniform specifications regarding some problems which affect economic policy, operations management and bookkeeping and accounting principles. These include specifications regarding the principles and tasks of accounting work, the scope of accounting of receipts, expenditures and distribution, record-keeping methods, bookkeeping headings, bookkeeping files and the like. All of these should be conscientiously implemented under the guidance of unified prescriptions. If they are not adhered to, what should be unified will not be unified, and each organization will do everything its own way, which not only will not promote state guidance of the collective economy, but also will not be conducive to effective management of the collective economy and may even result in loopholes which will lead to confusion and economic losses.

However, because our country has a vast territory and there is a great disparity in the agricultural communes' and brigades' level of economic development and of operations management, and particularly of the bookkeeping personnel's job qualifications, and because there is a diversity of operations management forms, we must stress the principles of proceeding in accordance with local conditions and carrying out level-by-level management under centralized, unified guidance while guarding against the "one-way-for-everybody" approach. Therefore, the document "The Agricultural Commune and Brigade Accounting System" permits the localities to draft supplementary prescriptions in accordance with their own specific circumstances; in addition, communes and brigades in minority areas, remote border areas, and forestry, livestock-raising and fishery areas may also independently develop accounting systems which are suited to their local conditions. Experience since the cooperativization of agriculture makes it clear that acting in accordance with local conditions under centralized, unified guidance makes it possible

both to preserve the strictness of the accounting system and to maintain a considerable adaptability and flexibility, so that it helps the various areas and communes and brigades to do their accounting work well.

As the localities strengthen development of the accounting system, they must effectively combine scientific character with mass character in their bookkeeping and accounting methods and must effectively combine the maintenance of accounting quality with simplicity and ease; while assuring accounting quality they must strive to adopt relatively simple and easy methods, and they must make it easy for the leadership and commune members to be told or read the things which they need to know, and unify these two aspects to the maximum possible extent. In addition, they must correctly combine relative stability and continuous reform of the accounting system; in other words, the various provisions of the accounting system must both be laid down in accordance with the actual current situation and must make allowance for future economic development of the communes and brigades. If account is not taken of the current situation, it is possible to become divorced from reality, while if allowances are not made for future developments, it is possible to lose one's orientation. To summarize, the accounting system should strive to maintain relative stability in order to train accounting personnel, improve their job qualifications and assure high-quality accounting; at the same time, the requisite changes must be made in response to changes in the objective situation in order to achieve continual improvement and upgrading.

The key to effective trial implementation of the new accounting system and effective commune and brigade accounting work is an energetic effort to develop the ranks of commune and brigade accounting personnel. At present a considerable proportion of the commune and brigade accounting personnel nationwide is insufficiently stable, and in addition some communes and brigades do not have a full complement of accounting personnel, or the personnel's job qualifications are poor and the accounts are in confusion. Therefore, we must make an effort to effectively consolidate and develop the ranks of accounting personnel. First, we must readjust and allocate accounting personnel effectively in connection with financial consolidation and improvement of the production responsibility system: as the document "The Agricultural Commune and Brigade Accounting System" states, "No matter what type of production responsibility system the agricultural communes and brigades institute, they must allocate their bookkeeping personnel, establish an effective financial accounting system, and do their accounting work well." We must solve the problem of payment of accounting personnel in a practical and rational way. We must improve the methods of appointing and removing a bookkeeping personnel and combine commune and brigade appointment with examination and approval by higher-level cognizant departments in order to promote the relative stability of accounting personnel. Experience makes it clear that instituting specialization and socialization of accounting is an effective method of solving the problem; all localities which are able to do so should actively encourage one commune or brigade to establish a specialized accounting office and detail specialized accounting personnel to it, or should have several brigades set up one specialized accounting unit. Furthermore, in connection with the trial implementation of the new accounting system, we must make a vigorous effort to train accounting personnel

effectively. The county or commune may be the basic unit in training accounting personnel, and depending on the job qualifications of existing personnel, the training may be carried on stage by stage in planned fashion. The training must be specifically focused, and whatever deficiencies exist should be made up, while "cooking everything in the same pot" should be studiously avoided. The key is to enable accounting personnel currently in office to perform the duties of their positions so that every brigade has accounts and the accounts are clear. By means of training, we should gradually enable ourselves to carry out effectively examining and classification of accounting personnel. Third, we must do effective work in accounting guidance. This will be one of the most rewarding measures since cooperativization as regards helping communes and brigades do their bookkeeping and accounting work well. The departments which are in charge of providing guidance in commune and brigade accounting must help the communes and brigades establish an effective accounting guidance network and a set of stations and actively carry on guidance activities so as to continually improve the accounting personnel's job qualifications and carry out agricultural commune and brigade accounting work effectively.

[Text of notice]

To all province, municipality and autonomous region agricultural committees (or departments), agricultural offices (or bureaus), livestock raising offices (or bureaus), financial offices (or bureaus) and Agricultural Bank branches:

Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee, the agricultural commune and brigade economic system has been restructured, various types of production responsibility systems have been implemented, and operations methods and management techniques have undergone major changes. Certain past prescriptions for bookkeeping and accounting are not well adapted to the current situation. In response to this new situation, in order to encourage agricultural communes and brigades to strengthen economic accounting and improve economic results, we have drafted the "Agricultural Commune and Brigade Accounting System." The document is now issued, and trial implementation will begin in 1983. In accordance with their work needs, and in connection with their specific conditions, the provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions may add the needed supplementary provisions to this system; they are requested to report them in timely fashion to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery.

13 August 1982

8480

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PROBLEM OF PRIVATELY OWNED LIVESTOCK IN PASTORAL REGIONS EXAMINED

Beijing NONGYE JINGJI WENTI [PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS] in Chinese
No 2, 23 Feb 83 p 51-53

[Article by Bai Hewen [4101 7729 2429], Policy Research Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery]

[Text] China's pastoral regions consist of 238 pastoral and semipastoral counties (banners) scattered in the provinces and regions, including Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Qinghai, Tibet, Sichuan, Gansu, Ningxia, Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning. The area of these grasslands is equal to 30 percent of the total area of China. Like the agricultural regions, these pastoral regions have witnessed the growth of productivity following the adjustment and reform of the production relations since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee. Favorable changes have taken place in many areas. The new situations, new problems and new experiences attendant to such developments and changes need to be recognized, studied and summarized. The problem of privately owned livestock is one of the new problems for the pastoral regions. The following accounts of the basic conditions and my preliminary views on the problem are herein presented as a source of reference to those comrades who care.

1. The Unexpected Development of Privately Owned Livestock in the Pastoral Regions

The rapid development of privately owned livestock in recent years due to the fact that the various pastoral regions have carried out the economic revitalization programs and policies of the CPC and put into effect various systems of production responsibility, especially the removal of the ban and restrictions on privately owned livestock, has aroused the interest of the herdsmen masses in raising livestock to acquire wealth. According to incomplete figures made available by the end of 1981, the commune members of the 10 stock-raising provinces and regions had more than 60 million privately owned livestock, or 34.5 percent of the total livestock population of 176 million head. The Xinjiang Autonomous Region had 6.26 million privately owned livestock in 1979, but the total rose to 8.31 million in 1980, and 10.37 million in 1981, showing an average annual increase of more than 2 million. The number of privately owned livestock in the Yi League pastoral region, Inner Mongolia, rose to 1,511,000 in 1981 from a total of 301,000 in 1979, an increase over 400 percent

in 2 years. The ratio of privately owned livestock has gone up to 44.14 percent from 9.57 percent in 1979. Judging by the sampling investigations of some of the communes, the ratio of privately owned livestock in the entire Li League pastoral region will go over 50 percent in 1982. Today, practically every communal household of this pastoral region has privately owned livestock, varying in size from a few to tens and even hundreds. The Oulenwusu production brigade of Hangjin Banner has 66 herds of cattle, 14 of which are privately owned. He Cheng, a commune member, and his family have more than 500 privately owned livestock.

The reason the privately owned livestock has expanded so fast is that the current CPC policy which gives it green light to proceed enables the herdsmen to free themselves from the erroneous "leftist" restrictions. Secondly, the measures of assistance provided by the communes, such as planned adjustments, reward for above-quota production, payment of share dividends, and disposal of eliminated livestock, have contributed to the rapid development of privately owned livestock. Thirdly, the commune members know how to take care of their livestock, including meticulous feeding and care, higher breeding and survival rate, and lower death rate. The CPC policy, communal assistance and attentive care by commune members are the three ingredients of a cohesive force to enhance the development of privately owned livestock. This cohesive force is a substantiation of the close relationship between the state, the communes and the commune members, a reflection of the superiority of the socialist system. It is clear that the rapid development of privately owned livestock represents not only the subjective wishes of the herdsmen masses but also an objective necessity. It is the result of the rectification of the "leftist" errors and the establishment of order out of chaos in the pastoral regions.

II. The Significance of Privately Owned Livestock to the Pastoral Regions

The privately owned livestock of the pastoral regions and the private plots of the agricultural regions are somewhat alike. Both are autonomous family business of commune members under the collective economy. It is pointed out in the "Decision of the CPC Central Committee on the Problem of Speeding up Agricultural Development" that "the private plots, privately owned livestock, household sideline production, and rural fair trading are the subsidiaries and supplements of socialism, and should not be branded as the appendages of capitalism." This reaffirms the similarity between the privately owned livestock and private plots. But the two differ in certain areas: 1) the private plots are fixed and might not change for years to come. The privately owned livestock are living things which fluctuate a great deal in numbers due to deaths and births; 2) the communes own the private plots which the commune members may use but may not otherwise dispose of, and the production brigades may readjust or repossess them in case of need. The ownership and the right to use the privately owned livestock belong to the herdsmen who may dispose of them as they like, and the communes have no right to intervene unless the herdsmen act contrary to the CPC policy and the laws of the state; 3) a private plot is only a means of production and the object of labor. The privately owned livestock are a means of production, an object of labor, and the product of labor--the embodiment of the herdsmen's wealth; 4) a private plot represents only a household sideline production, while privately owned

livestock constitute the household economy of the herdsmen. These differences speak for the special significance of privately owned livestock to the pastoral regions. As demonstrated in the following areas, the development of privately owned livestock has gained an important position and plays a vital role in the pastoral economy.

First, it spurs the revitalization and development of animal husbandry in the pastoral regions. The development of privately owned livestock is practically tied to the implementation of the system of production responsibility for animal husbandry, especially contracting by each household for a definite herd which allows the contractor to keep or share at a given ratio the above-quota production. This spurs the steady development of privately owned livestock, which in turn increases the livestock population and expands the animal husbandry industry. The Xinjiang Autonomous Region which has scored increases in animal husbandry every year since the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee had an inventory of 28.27 million head of livestock by the end of 1981, and 10.37 million of these were privately owned. The ratio of livestock ownership by the various economic sectors has changed drastically. Between 1965 and 1966, 29.8 percent were state-owned, 50 percent collectively owned, and 20.2 percent privately owned by commune members. Today 23.7 percent are state-owned, 39.6 percent collectively owned, and 36.7 percent privately owned by commune members.

Second, it brings in more income to the commune members and improves the livelihood of the herdsmen. In 1981, commune members of the Altai Region, Xinjiang, sold 688,000 yuan worth of privately owned livestock to the state, each household netted an average of 170 yuan. Due to the development of privately owned livestock, the average annual income per commune member in the Front and Rear Banners of Wotouke, Inner Mongolia, has gone up to 244 yuan in 1981 from 140 yuan in 1979, an increase of 74.3 percent in 2 years. Today, more and more herdsmen are building new houses, riding bicycles, wearing better clothing and enjoying more savings. In a word, they are getting wealthier.

Third, it makes life easier for the commune members because it provides more meat, milk, wool, leather and more riding and draught animals. In the past, a herdsman who wanted to buy a sheep for meat often has to travel miles to plead with his party secretary, brigade leader and accountant, and might not even be able to get what he wanted. As the herdsmen masses of Nierongxian, Tibet, used to say: "In the past, no commune member had any privately owned livestock, and they had to queue up for milk, for a scanty ration of butter. The region did not look like a pastoral region at all. Now, it looks really like a pastoral region."

Fourth, it increases animal products and activates the rural and urban markets. In 1980, the Xinjiang Autonomous Region procured 70,000 head of beef cattle, 28,000, or 40 percent, of which were privately owned, and 50,500 head, or 56 percent, of the 90,000 head of beef cattle it procured in 1981 were privately owned. In 1981, the Tekesixian procured 784 tons of fine wool, 237 tons, or 30 percent, of which were from privately owned sheep. Some products of the privately owned livestock are sold to the state and some at the fairs. They play an important role in activating the market, enhancing the interflow of material supply, and satisfying the daily needs of the people.

III. The Need To Strengthen Planned Control of Privately Owned Livestock in the Pastoral Regions

Privately owned livestock grew pretty fast in the past few years, and will continue to grow from now on. There are a few noticeable new situations and new problems attendant to the development of privately owned livestock. For instance, there is a contradiction in the fight for grassland between privately owned and collectively owned livestock. In many localities where privately owned livestock are tallied but not subject to requisition, collectively owned livestock have to bear the brunt in meeting the obligation. The fact that the privately owned livestock are not included in breed improvement and epidemic prevention programs in some localities has led to breed mixup and degeneration, and obstruction of effective livestock epidemic control. A few households with big herds of privately owned livestock are unwilling to contract for raising the collectively owned livestock but anxious to break away from the commune. There are also commune members with privately owned livestock who swap their small animals for bigger ones, males for females, thin ones for fattened ones, or dead ones for live ones to the detriment of collective interests. The existence of these problems shows that our ideological education, organization and management are not keeping pace with the new situation, and should be strengthened step by step. Today, these problems have become the focus of diverse views on the issue of privately owned livestock. Some are very critical and call for restrictions on privately owned livestock. Those who oppose restrictions ask for better management while they want to encourage the development of privately owned livestock. To understand and handle the problem of privately owned livestock, we must analyze the issue of "restrictions" instead of opposing or favoring them indiscriminately.

There are subjective or artificial and objective or natural restrictions. Today, it is not appropriate to use administrative decrees to restrict the breed and size of privately owned livestock of the pastoral regions. First of all, the development of privately owned livestock has not been even in various localities, fast in some but slow in others. Some households have more than others while some simply do not have any. On the whole, the scope of privately owned livestock in the pastoral and semipastoral regions as of today is rather small. Except in Inner Mongolia and Tibet, where the per capita possession of privately owned livestock is about five, the per capita total in Qinghai is little over three, in Xinjiang, Gansu and Ningxia less than two, and Sichuan less than one. As a matter of fact, those localities and households which do not have any sizeable privately owned livestock deserve encouragement and assistance instead of restrictions. Even those localities and households with sizeable herds of privately owned livestock should still keep developing them if conditions permit because they are good for the country and the people. Our policy should be stable and persistent, because frequent changes hurt production. If we say the masses do not approve of the requisition of agricultural and animal products by "taking more than replenishment," they would also disapprove of the requisition of privately owned livestock by "taking more than replenishment." But objective restrictions are not to be overlooked because they are there no matter whether you like it or not. The grazing load of the pastoral region grasslands is limited.

When livestock expand beyond what the grasslands can bear, the law of ecological balance will restrain their expansion (not only the privately owned but also the collectively owned livestock). Otherwise the working of vicious circles will lead to the decline and ruination of production. The overtaxed grasslands in some localities have begun to degenerate and affect the quality of livestock. It is necessary to introduce planning to grassland construction and livestock development. A state of anarchy must not prevail.

Here we should not confuse planned management and restrictions, much less to equate them. Generally speaking, restrictions are negative, and planned management is a positive approach, an objective necessity. To allow the privately owned livestock of the pastoral regions to drift without any firm planned management would leave the existing problems unresolved and hurt the development of the system of privately owned livestock. How are we going to strengthen planned management of privately owned livestock? The experience of some localities indicates that the focus should be on the following points:

1. The pasture ground to graze privately owned livestock and to harvest hay should be rationally charted, and nobody should be allowed to graze his livestock and harvest hay wherever he pleases. Once the pasture ground is assigned to privately owned livestock, every owner shall pay a pasture ground administration and construction fee per standard animal to protect and build the pasture ground. To combine maintenance and utilization, the administration and construction jobs may be contracted out to different households.

2. Except for a small number of milk cows and draught animals, privately owned livestock should be encouraged to form separate herds which may be grazed collectively and uniformly for the owners by production teams for a given grazing fee. When privately owned and collectively owned livestock graze in mixed herds, except for the payment of grazing fee and the pasture ground construction and administration fee, their lifespan, reproduction rate, survival rate and the volume of products of the privately owned livestock shall be averaged with those of the collectively owned livestock.

3. When the privately owned livestock are enough to provide the daily necessities of the owner's household, it shall not receive any ration of meat livestock from the commune. The portion of the livestock over and above the daily necessities shall be subject to requisition like the pigs raised by the commune members of the agricultural regions. The maximum volume subject to requisition shall be determined on the strength of local conditions (different standards may apply to pastoral and semipastoral regions).

4. There must be a uniform plan for breed improvement and the prevention and cure of epidemic diseases of privately owned livestock. Set up the necessary procedures and fees for breeding and epidemic prevention.

5. Those households which have exceptionally large herds of privately owned livestock may be considered key livestock raising households (unlike the agricultural regions, where there are diversified operations, a pastoral region is basically a single-livestock economy, and the term key livestock-raising household is more appropriate than specialized household). Once

approved by the production team or brigade, they may be permitted to raise their independent herds and do not have to contract for grazing the collectively owned livestock. But they must sign contracts to define their pasture ground, set their obligations to respond to the requisition quotas, pay the pasture ground administration and construction fee, contribute to the common accumulation fund, and abide by the uniform breed improvement and epidemic prevention programs of the production team. Thus, the technical know-how of a small number of households is brought into play under the planned management of the production team. Some people are concerned whether continuing development of privately owned livestock would weaken and eventually destroy the collective economy if it became a private individual enterprise. As long as planned management could be strengthened as described above, the concern is uncalled for.

5360

CSO: 4007/132

ARTICLE SAYS COUNTRY'S SPRING CROP GROWTH 'GRATIFYING'

Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese Jul 8 Jul 83 p 3

[Article: "China's Spring Crop Growth Gratifying"]

[Text] Aggregate information from the relevant departments indicates gratifying crop growth on China's more than 1.2 billion mu of spring crop land, better than last year and that of class 1 and 2 seedlings account for more than 80 percent of the total.

This year there were variations in the amount of land sown to various crops in different areas, and the crop layout is more rational. According to statistics for 28 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions (with the exception of Xizang), the area sown to spring grain crops is more than 993 million mu, up more than 2 million mu from last year. The area sown to such cash crops as cotton, oil crops, tobacco and hemp is slightly less than last year.

This year all areas have made a vigorous effort in spring sowing, and the soil moisture situation is good; many localities made rapid progress in sowing and its quality was good. Northern localities which consistently experience serious spring droughts this year generally had precipitation of 30 mm or more and unusually warm air temperatures, which was beneficial for the spring sowing. The area which had complete germination of one sowing generally exceeded 90 percent, the seedlings were uniform and vigorous, and growth was uniform, which has been an uncommon situation for many years. Throughout the south the spring has been rainy and cool, and although transplanting of early rice seedlings was put off by 5 to 7 days compared with last year, because of the implementation of the production contract responsibility system, the peasants were highly motivated. The work was completed earlier than last year. After transplanting, the air temperature rose rapidly, the early rice headed and tillered rapidly, and it is now growing well; it is estimated that the double-crop late rice transplanting period will not be affected.

Since the beginning of June, the northeast has been experiencing cool weather. Some areas of the south have had thunderstorm damage, and there has been some summer drought in certain of the northern provinces. These factors will have some effect on spring crop growth; therefore the localities must not slacken their cultivation of the fields, and they must give particular attention to effective preparations against natural disasters and strive for an overall bumper harvest in the fall.

8480

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DAILY DISCUSSES 'COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURE'

HK251153 Beijing LIAOWANG in Chinese No 7, 20 Jul 83 pp 30-32

[Article by Guo Yandi [6753 1693 3695]: "Comprehensive Agriculture--the Strategic Goal of Our Country's Agriculture"]

[Text] Among the great changes in the productive force in the countryside of our country, people have begun to have an increasing understanding of the concept of comprehensive agriculture.

So far as its content and extension are concerned, comprehensive agriculture mentioned here not only embodies agriculture in its traditional meaning (such as including the plantation trade which handles the grain crops and the industrial crops) but also includes contents of a more extensive and far-reaching nature. For example, it includes the combination of agriculture, industry, and commerce, the comprehensive development of science, technology, rural economy, culture, and education, the linking together of domestic agricultural production with the world market, and so on. The strategy of comprehensive agriculture may in reality be described as the strategy of the comprehensive development of rural economy and the social structure. It is the product of the summing up of the practical experiences of agriculture in our country for over 30 years and the absorption of the scientific and technological accomplishments both inside the country and abroad. It should be noted that by the year 2000 our rural population will comprise roughly 1 billion people. What should we do with such an enormous force? It is a problem never met with or solved in the world before. Engels pointed out that in order to arrange work for the peasants and at the same time to prevent their massive flow into the cities, "they must be made to engage in industrial work in the countryside." In this context, comprehensive agriculture constitutes a strategic problem in our country's agricultural development.

First, we must fully understand that agriculture is the basic attribute of production carried out through [word indistinct] of living things, while living things grow and develop in the natural environment. Hence, viewed from the standpoint of comprehensive agriculture, the procedure of the growth and development of living things in agriculture is the unification of the contradictions between the factor of living things and the factor of the environment. It is true that both restrict each other, rely on each other, and transform

each other, but under general conditions the factor of living things customarily plays the leading role. This is the reason comrades upholding the viewpoint of comprehensive agriculture should pay all the more attention to the study of the intrinsic development laws of living things themselves. This is because the factor of living things itself carries the significance of productive force and embodies great potential.

In the past, when people talked about the relations between living things and the environment, they frequently paid more attention to the "antithesis" between them and less attention to their "unity." Following the development of ecology, people have begun to understand that living things and the environment have to progress in coordination. Starting from this viewpoint, one category of living things may be taken as the "environment" of another category of living things. For example, forests represent a good ecological environment for agricultural crops while, so far as animals are concerned, vegetation is also a kind of "environment." In this way, in order to grasp the essence of raising the productive force of the living things of agriculture, we may extend our vision to protecting forest ecology and grassland resources and to developing grasslands, and so forth. Only on the basis of solving these basic problems of understanding can we acquire a fuller understanding of this new structure of agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry.

Therefore, in undertaking comprehensive agriculture we cannot limit ourselves to the confines of our only 1.5 billion mu of farmland but must break through this barrier of grain production. On the contrary, we should devote our attention to the possibility of utilizing the 14.4 billion mu of our national territory. We must comprehensively utilize, and utilize well, the mountains, waterways, grasslands, forests, and also the adjoining sea areas. So far as each locality is concerned, we must follow scientific principles, suit measures to local conditions, and engage in diversified operations. In a word, agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, subsidiary production, and fisheries must be comprehensively developed. So far as the plantation trade is concerned, we cannot be lax on the grain crops and must also grasp the industrial crops. The breeding and raising trade should be given equal emphasis with the plantation trade and its proportion of the gross output of agriculture should be gradually raised. At present, investments in animal husbandry amount to only 1.1 percent of the gross output value of agriculture, averaging only 0.037 yuan per mu of grassland. This is ridiculously small. Our country has water areas of 75 million mu good for raising freshwater fish but up to now only some 75 percent have been utilized. Shallow water areas and beaches good for breeding and raising fish also amount to some 20 to 30 million mu of which only 10 percent is now being utilized. If by the year 2000, the makeup of aquatic products can be 50 percent each from sea water and fresh water and 50 percent each from raising and catching, then the gross value of output can be quadrupled. It may be said that following the artificial raising of agricultural crops, attention is being turned to artificial afforestation, artificial grass planting, and artificial breeding and raising. This is a great leap forward in understanding and a transformation in strategy.

Actual practice in the development of comprehensive agriculture shows that be it the plantation trade, the breeding and raising trade, or the forest industry, if a linkup is made with the processing trade and subsidiary trades, then the economic results will be rapidly increased, to the extent of an increase of 100 percent or perhaps 1,000 percent. Hence, modernized agriculture must take the road of combination of agriculture, industry, and commerce, and place the work of processing the agricultural products on the shoulders of the agricultural production units themselves. This can gradually develop small rural economy, which hitherto has provided only the raw materials and has been self-sufficient, into comprehensive agriculture which turns out products and carries out the production of commodities. At the same time, the countryside still sorely needs the extensive development of communications, transportation, and commerce. To develop commodity production, we must grasp the circulation lanes and must develop not only markets in cities and towns but also the vast rural markets. In localities which have the necessary conditions, industry, mining, energy resources, building, service trades, foreign trade and tourism must also be gradually developed. Speaking in a broader sense, it is not that rural economy must include industry and commerce but that industry and commerce must cooperate with agriculture and that the supply of the means of production to agriculture, agricultural production itself, and the processing, storage, transportation, and marketing of agricultural products must all be unified into an organic whole to bring about a Chinese-style unification of agriculture, industry, and commerce.

In recent years, from actual practice, people have gradually come to realize that the speed and level of the development of modern agriculture do not depend solely on the amount of input of materials but are also determined by the development of scientific research in agriculture and also by the extent of the grasp of modern science and technology on the part of the workers. Many specialists are of the opinion that investment in scientific research and education plays the principal role in the modernization of agriculture, whereas investment in agricultural production itself plays only a secondary role. Skilled and technical personnel produce primary effects on the speed of the increase in the per-capita output value. Intellectual investments are usually small but they produce the highest results. To grasp tightly the training of talented personnel from now on constitutes an important aspect of comprehensive agriculture.

We must also consider how to visualize the world market and accordingly to arrange well for domestic production. For example, at present it is not worthwhile to produce by large-scale production articles for daily use and handicraft products which are highly marketable in the international market. But if their production is taken up as industrial subsidiary production by communes, brigades, and households, then the possibilities are great.

Lastly, agriculture has close relations with the size of the population and with material resources, energy resources, and environment. All of the latter require comprehensive arrangements. We shall not deal with them one by one here.

The foregoing is an elucidation of the principal contents of comprehensive agriculture. But to make an analysis from the theoretical angle, what is the ideological background for bringing up this concept of comprehensive agriculture? Briefly, the basic viewpoints may be seen as being five in number, these being: viewpoint of acting in accordance with objective laws (that is, natural laws and economic laws); ecological viewpoint; systematic viewpoint; viewpoint of rotation of materials and energy conversion; and viewpoint of the full and rational utilization of resources. These viewpoints or considerations are closely related to each other and permeate each other. In the past, of the policy decisions on the development of agriculture in our country, some were not in conformity with objective laws and this was due mainly to our failure to treat extremely complex agriculture as an integrated whole, that is to say, to lack of a systematic viewpoint and inability to analyze and handle [words indistinct] agricultural production in an all-round and comprehensive manner. This adequately reflected that our ideology had not been entirely built on the basis of modern natural sciences. Only in joining together a systematic viewpoint and an ecological viewpoint can the attention be given to studying the ecological system of agriculture. This should be the basis for formulating the strategy on agricultural development.

The process of life is the process of the rotation of materials and conversion of energy. Hence, a systematic viewpoint should be associated with the viewpoint on the rotation of materials and energy conversion. Starting from this point [words indistinct] that efficiency in agricultural production is to a very large extent determined by the rotation of materials and energy conversion of the ecological system. The productive force of the ecological system of agriculture is in reality the efficiency coefficient in the utilization of agricultural resources. Take for example the utilization of light energy. We should not confine our attention to the small portion of its use in the conversion or generation of seeds, but should note the big portion of its utilization in the formation of plant leaves and plant stems. Furthermore, we should bear in mind and include the mountains, forests, grasslands, and water areas, which are much larger than the area of cultivated land and which are exposed to brilliant sunshine, and note the products that can be converted therefrom by means of the breeding and raising [word indistinct] and industries. The factor of light energy, plus the role of the forest industry in the ecology of agriculture, and the role of the breeding and raising trades in enhancing soil fertility for the plantation trade--all these constitute the basic factors for the joining together of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, and fisheries. The productive forces developed from the organic banding together of these factors will not be just the sum of the simple addition of the factors themselves but will be immensely greater.

Linking the ecological viewpoint and the viewpoint on the full and rational utilization of resources, we can, in a scientific manner, sum up the special features of the natural factors and economic and social factors of the various localities, and, working on the principle of playing up the good points and forsaking the weak points, proceed with making the comprehensive ecological division. This forms a scientific basis for agricultural planning of a national nature and a divisional nature. In view of the vast territory of our country and the complex condition of the environment we should all the more step up this kind of work.

In short, comprehensive agriculture comprehends a benign circulatory agricultural production system of high efficiency which can ensure stable production, high yield, good quality products and a low consumption rate of raw materials. We should respect it highly as a development strategy. However, comprehensive agriculture is not a distant ideal. Rather, it provides a lesson for actual practice. Judging from the trial points, it does not require extra investments. If only the ideology is correct and the method of procedure is also correct, then actual results can be achieved. Naturally, in its concrete implementation, we should start first with taking due note of the national condition of our country and proceed step by step and in a planned manner. For example, without the backing of modern science and technology and the help of personnel who have a full grasp of modern science and technology, it will not be possible to realize all at once agricultural production of a modernized and comprehensive nature. This point alone well illustrates the important and strategic position occupied by scientific and technological education as well as by research on agriculture.

COS: 4007/228

DAILY ON IMPROVING FISHERY LEADERSHIP

HK110859 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 10 Aug 83 p 2

[Commentator's article: "Go to the Forefront To Lead Fishery"]

[Text] Fishing at sea is the most difficult operation in fishery. Comrades of the fishery command in Changdao County, Shandong Province, have directed production in the forefront for a long time. Their office has been moved from land onto fishing boats so that they can make investigations and studies and can solve problems promptly. Their practice has been warmly welcomed and praised by the fishing masses, and should be recommended to people in the same trade.

Since the contract responsibility system in various forms was adopted by communes and teams engaging in sea fishery, the production enthusiasm of fishermen has been fully aroused. However, the serious decline in fishing resources in coastal waters has caused a series of new problems that affect fishery. For example, on the one hand, we must adopt firm measures to protect resources and to strictly control inshore fishing; on the other hand, we must also strive to develop fishery and ensure that fishermen can increase their output and income. At the same time, we have to man fishing boats in a reasonable way, because the boats are now generally overstaffed, and should properly arrange surplus manpower. In addition, we should also ensure the fulfillment of sales targets and facilitate the marketing of aquatic products. In the face of these problems, we cannot take a perfunctory and evasive attitude but must boost our revolutionary spirit, go to the forefront to make investigations and studies, and work together with the fishing masses and technicians to seek solutions.

Some comrades do not realize the importance of exercising leadership in the forefront. They think that since output quotas has been assigned to fishing boats, fishermen themselves have to bother about the fulfillment of these quotas, and leaders can be relieved from some burdens. This view is wrong. Sea fishery is more complicated than agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, and sideline occupations. It depends more heavily on weather and environmental conditions. It is impossible for a single fishing boat to tackle many complicated things, such as the forecasts of fishing seasons, the detection of changes in fishing grounds, the obtaining of market information, material supplies, and tool repair facilities. So, fishermen need their leaders to help them

solve these problems and coordinate production. As for the work of preserving fresh aquatic products, processing these products, renewing equipment, providing technical training, improving the output contract system, and developing and utilizing pelagic fishing groups, it is even more necessary to have direct guidance and attention from the higher party and government leading organs and from relevant professional departments. If leaders do not work in the forefront, many opportunities may be lost in production, the marketing of products may be handled in a disorderly way, and perils of the sea may even occur and endanger the lives and property of the fishermen.

Sea fishery is a key link of fishery as a whole. The development of sea fishery is not only important aspect of the creation of a new situation in the aquatic products industry as a whole, but is also a major way to ensure that the vast number of fishermen living in coastal areas can become rich and that the people throughout the country can have sufficient fish to eat. Facts show that so long as we can work in the same way as the fishery command in Changdao County, work persistently in the forefront as fishermen's reliable "advisers" and "backers," sea fishery in our country will certainly develop at a higher speed and usher in a new situation.

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NONGCUN GONGZUO TONGXUN ON CONTRACT SYSTEM

HK081206 Beijing RENMIN RIBAO in Chinese 5 Aug 83 p 2

[Report: "NONGCUN GONGZUO TONGXUN Publishes Editorial on Output-related Contract System"]

[Text] The NONGCUN GONGZUO TONGXUN No 8, 1983, published today, carries an editorial entitled "Continue To Stabilize and Perfect the System of Contracted Responsibility With Payment Linked To Output." The editorial calls for the conscientious study of Document No 1, 1983, of the CPC Central Committee. Excerpts of the editorial are as follows:

The various forms of the household system of contracted responsibility with payment linked to output are a great creation of our peasants under the leadership of the party, and a new development in the practice of our country of the Marxist principle of the collectivization of agriculture. It has integrated unified management with decentralized management and has enabled the superiority of collective ownership as well as the initiative of household management to be brought into play at the same time, thereby creating a new situation in agricultural production. The situation is getting better and better, and the zeal of the peasants to become well-off through labor has become higher and higher. However, we should see that the system of contracted responsibility with payment linked to output has still not been established for long in many localities, and contracts as well as some other essential systems have still not been amplified. There is still a very big gap in how to really succeed in unifying what should be unified and decentralizing what should be decentralized based on local conditions. Only by unremittingly solving the various new problems which appear in the course of advance and by striving to make a success of stabilizing and perfecting the work can we further bring into play the might of the system of contracted responsibility with payment linked to output and develop it from the planting industry to the forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production, and fishery industries and from agriculture to all fields of the rural economy so that it will strike root, blossom, and bear fruit. Therefore, Document No 1, 1983, of the CPC Central Committee (hereinafter called Document No 1) clearly pointed out: "The principal task of rural work at present is still to stabilize and perfect the agricultural production responsibility system."

The editorial pointed out: To stabilize and perfect the agricultural production responsibility system, we must first carry out systematic education on the responsibility system with payment linked to output among the broad masses of rural work cadres. At present, under the situation of an uproar of applause, some of the comrades have given rise to the mood of blind optimism. They are satisfied with the existing state of affairs, hold that "the tasks have been determined, the plans have been put into effect, the contracts have been signed, and there is nothing else to do," and neither attach importance to listening to the voice of the masses nor to seeing the new problems in the course of advance and proposing new tasks in the development. Some of the comrades are also afraid of the difficulty of popularizing the responsibility system with payment linked to output in other fields and trades. They hold that all the easy contracts have been contracted out and that those which have not been contracted out are mostly complicated, extremely difficult, or have greater resistance, and that ideological work will be difficult to carry out. They are full of misgivings and shrink from the work. To solve these two problems in ideological understanding, the most effective method is to conscientiously study Document No 1, integrate studying the spirit of the document with summing up the work of their own district or unit, pay close attention to problems, draw a clear line of demarcation and thereby raise their understanding of the significance and nature of the system of contracted responsibility with payment linked to output, further make a success of the work of stabilizing and perfecting, and consciously and voluntarily develop toward other fields; and to understand clearly the trend in the development of rural economy, see clearly the future goal, and define the significance as well as the role of specialized households in the development of rural commodity production. We not only must see the long-term existence of the responsibility system with payment linked to output, but we must also understand that like any other thing, it cannot be immutable and that along with the development of production, it will inevitably keep on developing and perfecting from the lower stage to the higher stage. To be sure, this perfecting is definitely not in the form of a major change, and it will absolutely not mean going back to the former road, but it will be developed and perfected more in accord with China's national conditions, with the wishes of the people, and with the objective demands of the development of productive forces.

The editorial stressed that our principal task at present is to stabilize and perfect the manifold forms of the system of contracted responsibility with payment linked to output and to develop the various kinds of specialized households. We must educate the cadres to clearly understand the trend in the development of the rural economy after the implementation of the system of contracted responsibility with payment linked to output, propagate to the masses through the cadres in order to clear misgivings in the minds of the peasants such as the fear that the responsibility system may not be permanent and the fear that there may be changes in policy, and adopt some realistic and practical measures to stabilize and perfect the system of contracted responsibility with payment linked to output. For example, the time limit of contracts for contracted land should be appropriately extended to encourage the peasants to invest in the farmland and improve production conditions. We must strengthen land management work, and when readjustment must be carried out on the land based on changes in production conditions, population increase or decrease,

and irrational conditions appearing in the land occupied, we must firmly grasp the principle of minor readjustment and major stability. When transferring contracted land from households which transformed poor-quality land into good-quality land, we should give them reasonable economic compensation; as for those who carried out production of a despoiling nature and transformed good-quality land into poor-quality land, we must also impose suitable economic punishment on them. As a result of the development of all kinds of specialized households, the phenomenon of spontaneous transfer of contracted land between peasant households has appeared in the countryside. This is a reflection of the demand of the peasants for the development of specialized production, and it has given an impetus to the perfecting and development of the household contract responsibility system. We must have a correct understanding toward this, actively provide guidance, and appropriately carry out organized and planned regulation. We should never force the action of the masses. What is more, we cannot cut the feet to fit the shoes and dampen the enthusiasm of the masses for developing commodity production. We must pay special attention to allied services in various links before, during, and after production. We not only must actively support the development of all kinds of specialized households, but we must also not slacken the work of helping the poor. We not only must educate the peasants to correctly handle the relations between the interests of the state, the collective, and the individual and guarantee the fulfilling of the state plan as well as the portion to be withdrawn and retained by the collective, but we must also greatly treasure the financial resources of the people and pay attention to lightening the burden of the peasants. We must reform the management system, simplify the administrative structure, and set up a system of personal responsibility for the cadres. Cadres at all levels must strengthen study, guard against the obsolescence of knowledge, study politics, science, and culture, learn management and administration knowledge, continue to emancipate the mind, keep on strengthening ideological self-cultivation, raise policy level as well as scientific management level, and more properly lead the masses in courageously advancing along the road of socialist agriculture with distinctive Chinese characteristics!

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

SUMMER GRAIN OUTPUT INCREASE--Beijing, 10 Aug (XINHUA)--Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery show that 21 medium- and low-yield prefectures and cities played a major role in increasing summer grain output this year. The 21 areas are: Zhoukou, Shangqiu, Kaifeng, Anyang, Nanyang and Zhumadian in Henan; Handan, Xingtai, Cangzhou and Hengshui in Hebei; Liaocheng, Heze, Huimin, Jining and Dezhou in Shandong; Xuzhou, Huaiyin and Yancheng in Jiangsu; and Suxian, Fuyang and Chuxian in Anhui; which accounted for a quarter of the total summer grain acreage, but a third of total summer grain output. Summer grain output in these areas increased by more than 10 billion jin over last year. [Summary] [Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 0805 GMT 10 Aug 83 OW]

CSO: 4007/228

PRODUCTION CONTRACT SYSTEM REVIEWED

Beijing NONGCUN GONGZUO TONGXUN [RURAL WORK NEWSLETTER] in Chinese No 1, 1983
pp 15-16

[Article by Wang Yuzhao [3769 6735 2507], Standing Committee, Anhui Provincial CPC Committee: "Do Effectively the Work Involved in Improving the Production Contract Responsibility System"]

[Text] Anhui Province's agricultural production responsibility system began in the autumn of 1978. As a result of several years' practice, comparison and selection, the mass of cadres and masses agree that the large-scale household-level contract form is the best. Currently 98.8 percent of all production teams in the province have implemented this system.

Now that the production contract responsibility system which uses large-scale performance contracts as its main form has been mandated on a provincewide scale, the current problem is to continually improve and update it on a stable foundation. We must guard against two phenomena: one is self-satisfaction as a result of the excellent situation and the great things that have been achieved, and a belief that there is no need to continue moving forward and that new circumstances and new problems that arise need not be studied or solved; the other is becoming divorced from reality and trying to force things to develop in the desired way, or following the "left" formula, urging preverse ideas and frenziedly pushing new kinds of "transitions." How can we improve and upgrade the responsibility system? In terms of Anhui's situation, we should work in the following areas.

1. With regard to problems of ideology and understanding related to the production contract responsibility system, we should link theory and practice together, explain the socialist nature of the production contract responsibility system, and make it clear that this responsibility system which we are implementing is a great creation of China's peasants which has opened a Chinese-style road for socialist agricultural development. We must unify everyone's thinking in accordance with the central government's line, principles and policies, reinforce confidence, and enable the cadres and masses to clear-sightedly and boldly implement the production contract responsibility system and to continually improve and upgrade it.

4. We must adhere to the planned economy and assure the effectiveness of the "three systems" centered on the contract system, namely the production contract responsibility system, the operations management and product distribution contract system, and the cadre job responsibility system, so that they become a unity with three aspects and form the three pillars of the management system.

The contract system arose at the same time as the production responsibility system. After the agricultural production responsibility system specified the relationships between the responsibilities, rights and interests of the collective and the agricultural household in contract form, because the state plan was implemented down to the household level, the contract became the plan and also the distribution program, which is the correct way of handling the relationship between the parties. Use of the contract form to implement the state plan has two characteristic features. First, the masses come directly into contact with the plan, which is implemented down to the level of the individual family and household. Second, the contract is binding, and signing of the contract is done very conscientiously as a result of discussion by the masses, and all households wish to put their seal to it to assure that it is honored. Third, the contract system combines subordination to the state plan with respect for the peasants' autonomy, on the one hand including the peasant household's production under state guidance, while on the other hand promoting respect for peasant autonomy, since, provided that they complete the performance plan with respect to the state and their contribution to the collective, the peasants have the right to plant what is suitable for the locality and the right to oversee product distribution, with the result that adherence to the state plan and their own economic interests become interconnected. Therefore, some comrades say, "The contract system exists wherever there is a responsibility system. Without the contract system, the responsibility system is empty. Without contracts, the responsibilities cannot be implemented, the state plan cannot be assured, and the commune members' autonomy is not guaranteed." The drafting of contracts also has its own regular pattern: in the first year they are easy to draft, in the second year they are hard to draft, and in the third year the targets are easy to draft, but new requests are brought up by both parties and the contract not only specifies the tasks and responsibilities which must be carried out by the commune member but in addition specifies the manufactured goods, means of production and various bonuses which the state and the collective must provide to the household.

In order to assure execution of contracts, we must use the cadre job responsibility system. In some counties it is used from the production team level through the brigade, commune and prefecture levels, while in others it is implemented up to county level. Initially it is only based on the major indicators such as grain, oil, cotton, hogs, poultry and eggs, a certain number of points is given for completing a task and a certain number is deducted for not completing a task, and a bonus is issued at the end of the year. Some people use a 100-point system, while some use a 1,000-point system or a 2,000-point system. Following several years' test implementation, the content has been enriched. In Dingyuan County, every cadre has a booklet divided into four sections: (1) production plan, payments to the higher levels, the collective's centralized and assigned procurement tasks, and contribution to

the collective; (2) adherence to the three main points of discipline and eight points for attention for party and government cadres; (3) clear specification of each cadre's job responsibilities; (4) family planning, rate of attendance and the like. Wherever the cadre job responsibility system has been carried out effectively, there have been no cases of paralysis or semiparalysis. This work is managed by the organizational departments and the personnel bureaus, while cadre job responsibility system offices are set up within the counties, and the work is linked with cadre evaluation. Currently the work has been rather well done by Dingyuan, Jiashan and Jieshou Counties, and it must be further disseminated.

To summarize, the responsibility system is the foundation, the contract system is the key, and the cadre job responsibility system is the guarantee. The "three systems" constitute a threefold economic management system and are the three pillars for implementing the planned economy.

3. Implementation of "brigade fund-raising and commune funds management" in financial management. About two-thirds of all counties in the province have implemented this approach. Since large-scale contracts have been instituted, they no longer have to "blow the whistle" or evaluate and record work points, and they no longer use the "one equality and two adjustments", but the collective levy has been a difficult problem to solve. In order to solve it, some prefectures and counties have instituted "brigade fund raising and commune funds management." First the calculations are made, discussed by the masses, and put into contract form. Then, when grain is procured, a proportion is deducted centrally and held by the commune, which issues it in the summer and fall. In this way the masses' minds are set at ease, the cadres have fewer worries, and public accumulation is assured. The prefecture and county party committees should also intensify their oversight of the communes and prevent the communes from paying out or spending these funds without authorization.

4. Effective relief for the poor. After the large-scale performance contract was implemented, some people were worried about "polarization." As a result of several years' practice, this concern has largely evaporated. The peasants' income has increased everywhere; there are still disparities, of course, but these are normal. In the past some allowance was made for the poor households, but there were two problems: first, the use of a simple relief approach, and second, egalitarianism and "eating from one large rice pot." The relief funds were diverted at every level, "the goose was plucked as it passed," and the funds were even embezzled. In short, there were many deficiencies. Now the large-scale contract method is used for supporting the poor and a responsibility system for support of the poor has been established. First, it sets standards for households in financial difficulties and specifies who shall be supported. Second, it provides for investigation and the reasons for the households' difficulties. Third, it establishes large-scale performance contract responsibility systems for supporting poor households, in which the county, commune, brigade and cadres contract, and in addition some top households contract and are issued poor-household support certificates. Fourth, the poor-households support focuses on fostering their will and helping them make themselves self-sufficient. In 1982, Chuxian Prefecture had 9,659 cadres contracting for households in distress, including 1,125 county-level

cadres, 2,433 district and commune cadres, and 5,701 brigade cadres; they contributed for a total of 10,331 households in difficulties with a total of 42,476 persons. In 1982 half of them were able to escape from poverty.

5. Establishing a new agricultural scientific and technical system. Based on the experience of several prefectures and counties, it is planned to do more effective work in several areas: (a) establishing a peasants' science popularization association and a scientific farming association; (b) implementing a scientific and technical contracting system and establishing model scientific and technical households; (c) restructuring the training system so that the province prefecture and county are responsible for training agricultural cadres at all levels, while the communes establish peasant scientific and technical schools and give supplementary agriculture classes to those with elementary, secondary and higher education; (d) setting up a variety of scientific service organizations; (e) restructuring rural cultural and educational work and establishing cultural centers; (f) instituting a cooperative medical treatment contracting system and the like.

3480

030: 7007/141

ANHUI

BRIEFS

SUMMER GRAIN PURCHASE--By 15 August, Anhui Province had purchased a total of 3.06 billion jin of summer grain, already exceeding the projected target. This represents an increase of 860 million jin over the record year of 1982, and 4.2 times more than the summer of 1978, before the 3d Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee. The purchase, which is continuing, has exceeded 200 million jin in Huaiyuan County, and 100 million jin in Tianchang, Mengcheng, Fengyang, Lingbi, Suxian and Wuhe counties. [Summary] [OW252333 Hefei Anhui Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83]

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

RICE OUTPUT--Fujian Province has reaped a bumper early rice harvest this year, despite various natural disasters. According to statistics compiled by the provincial statistical bureau on 8 August, total early rice output in Fujian reached a record of 6.158 billion jin from 10.17 mu of farmland, an increase of 220 million jin over the same period last year. [Summary] [Fuzhou FUJIAN RIBAO in Chinese 10 Aug 83 p 1 OW]

FUJIAN DROUGHT--There has been no rain over most parts of Fujian Province since July. As a result, a drought has occurred almost throughout the province, which has seriously affected agricultural production. The provincial government has allocated 1 million yuan and 1,900 metric tons of diesel oil to support local efforts to combat the drought to save crop seedlings. [Summary] [Fuzhou Fujian Provincial Service in Mandarin 1130 GMT 4 Aug 83 OW]

CSO: 4007/228

YOUTH COLLECT SEEDS TO PLANT TREES

OW131151 Beijing XINHUA in English 1112 GMT 13 Aug 83

[Text] Beijing, 13 Aug (XINHUA)—Some 4,000 Communist Youth League members in Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province in northwest China, gathered 1.2 tons of tree seeds in the mountains of a nearby county earlier this week, CHINA YOUTH NEWS reports today.

This followed Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang's recent call to increase vegetation in the barren province by growing grass and planting trees.

Vegetation is important in Gansu because China will shift the emphasis of its national construction to the northwest at the turn of the century, the PEOPLE'S DAILY says in a front page editorial today.

Youth League Central Committee Secretary Wang Zhaoguo yesterday evening proposed that young people and children in north China collect 500 tons of seeds for Gansu this year.

Today's CHINA YOUTH NEWS also carries an editorial calling seed collecting a "patriotic activity."

Most of its front page, a colorplate in green, is devoted to the editorial, coverage of a national telephone conference on the drive and a letter from the Youth League Central Committee to children and youth throughout China.

The paper also publishes a map of Gansu and a list of grass, tree and shrub seeds suited to the climate and soil there.

CSO: 4007/228

MEETING CALLS FOR PLANTING GRASS, TREES

HK210712 Lanzhou Gansu Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 20 Aug 83

[Excerpts] The Gansu Provincial CPC Committee and People's Government held a telephone conference yesterday evening on planting grass and trees in autumn, to convey the instructions of CPC Central Committee General Secretary Hu Yaobang on planting grass and trees, developing animal husbandry, eliminating poverty and making the people rich, and changing the face of Gansu, and to announce the decision of the provincial CPC committee and government on rapidly launching a large-scale drive to plant grass and trees in autumn. Provincial CPC Committee Secretary Li Ziqi spoke at the meeting. Governor Chen Guangyi presided.

Li Ziqi said: Implementing the instructions of Comrade Hu Yaobang requires that we bring about a great change in guiding ideology for economic construction and regard planting grass and trees and developing animal husbandry as the road to be followed to eliminate poverty in Gansu and make the people rich, and as the fundamental measure for developing the province's agriculture. This change is a major change in the province's guiding principles for economic construction and a new milestone in the province's four modernizations drive. In order to meet this change, we must organize a major ideological mobilization, emancipation, and transformation. In the 4 months before the end of the year, we must organize a mass debate on planting grass and trees, eliminating poverty and making the people rich. In this way the cadres and masses will fully and correctly understand the spirit of Comrade Hu Yaobang's instructions and translate it into the common spontaneous action of the people of the whole province.

Comrade Li Ziqi stressed: Assigning first place now to planting grass and trees and developing animal husbandry certainly does not mean that we need not produce grain or build water conservancy projects. In fact, grain remains the indispensable material guarantee for achieving this strategic change. In the near future, planting grass and trees should be focused on barren mountains and slopes; in general we should not reduce the existing grain area. In addition we must vigorously practice scientific cultivation and achieve a steady increase in total grain output on the basis of raising the yields.

Comrade Li Ziqi said: We must continue to apply the policies to mobilize the enthusiasm of millions of households for planting grass and trees. We must seriously implement the rights of peasant ownership, benefit, and inheritance of grass and trees which they contract to plant on barren land. These three

rights must be completely handed over to the masses; this system must be kept unchanged for a long time. There need be no limit on the amount of barren land contracted out to a peasant household, so long as it has the skill and manpower to manage it.

Comrade Li Ziqi called on the province to do a good job in collecting and procuring grass and tree seed.

Comrade Li Ziqi said: We must vigorously arrest the malpractice of destroying forests. We must certainly not deal lightly with criminal activities in destroying forests. We must deal swift and heavy blows at such activities, according to law, and strive to cut out this malpractice within a short period.

The provincial CPC committee and government decision on rapidly launching a large-scale autumn drive to plant grass and trees said: CPC Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Hu Yaobang recently inspected work in Gansu and delivered important instructions. He called on us to plant grass and trees, develop animal husbandry, transform the mountain villages, eliminate poverty and make the people rich. This is the road we must follow in order to gradually achieve a benign ecological cycle in the province. It is a fundamental great affair for transforming the province. The people of all nationalities must resolutely respond to Comrade Hu Yaobang's call, bring about a great ideological emancipation and change, and shift the guiding ideology for economic construction in the province to planting grass and trees and developing animal husbandry. After unremitting long-term efforts, we should build Gansu into a front-ranking forestry and animal husbandry base in China.

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

TOWNS ESTABLISHED--Rural people's communes throughout Gansu Province are successfully establishing townships. By the end of July they had established 584 townships, 5 nationality townships, and 11 towns. The number of people's communes which have completed the establishment of townships accounts for 36 percent of the total number of people's communes throughout the province. The township CPC committees, the township governments, and the township economic organizations have brought their own functions into full play. The township CPC committees and the village party branches in all places have concentrated their energy on the implementation of the party's principles and policies, on party-building, and on ideological and political work. Apart from important matters which are to be discussed and decided by township CPC committees, township economic organizations can solve ordinary problems independently and through their own initiative. [Summary] [HK161508 Lanzhou Gansu Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 4 Aug 83]

CSO: 4007/228

JOURNAL EXAMINES QUESTION OF BUILDING GRAIN BASES

Beijing NONGYE JISHU JINGJI [ECONOMICS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY]
in Chinese No 4, Apr 83 pp 6-10

[Article by Bing Yushu [6728 3768 2579] et al: "Inquiry Into Building Commodity Grain Bases in Heilongjiang Province"]

[Text] Heilongjiang Province is an important commodity grain base of our country, and, in ushering in a new situation in building socialism, it is charged with an exceedingly glorious task. An enlarged meeting of the provincial party committee proposed that by the year 2000 the total grain output reach 45 billion jin and that the figure of 50 billion jin be striven for. To attain this strategic goal, we must give full play to Heilongjiang Province's superiorities and accelerate the building of commodity grain bases.

I

Every year Helongjiang sells a large amount of grain to the state, but this amount is gradually falling. In the 1950's the average annual sale to the state of grain and soybeans was 2.79 billion jin, in the 1960's it fell to 1.36 billion jin, in the 1970's it fell again to 1.81 billion jin, and over the past 2 years it has averaged 1 billion jin. Although the situation is like this, the potential of Heilongjiang's grain production is still very big. In the period 1979-81 the annual average per mu output of grain, soybeans, and yams was only 249 jin. If the per mu output were raised to 300 jin, according to calculations based on the area of cultivated land, the total output could reach 39 billion jin, a 9.8 billion increase over that of 1979. In this way, the commodity grain sold to the state can increase to 4 billion jin. To raise the total output to 39 billion jin and to further raise it to 45 billion jin, we possess a series of advantageous conditions:

First, the province's land can be roughly summarized as "5 mountains, 1 river, 1 grassland, and 3 farmland divisions." Its cultivated land area is 130 million mu, or 4.1 mu per capita of the province's population and 6.5 mu per agricultural labor force, all of which are higher than the national average levels. The soil is rich, and about 50 percent of it is black earth. On this vast expanse of fertile land there is ample scope for mechanization. In addition, there are about 30 million mu on one or two types of wasteland that

can be opened up and utilized. These are Heilongjiang Province's greatest superiorities for developing agriculture.

Second, the province possesses favorable conditions for the overall development of forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production, and fishery. In the forest areas, not only are there 2,142 kinds of high-grade plants of high economic value, but there are also over 20 kinds of wild animals of high economic value. In addition, there are large amounts of valuable wild medicinal materials and mountain products, e.g., black edible fungus, Chinese gooseberry, and acorns, all of which are waiting to be exploited and utilized.

Third, the proportion of state farms under the ownership of the whole people is large. There are now 97 state farms with a total area of cultivated land of over 31 million mu, accounting for 1/4 of the province's cultivated land and for 1/2 of the cultivated land in the national agricultural reclamation system. The annual average grain and soybean commodity rate of these state farms in the 32 years from 1949 to 1982 was 46.8 percent, much higher than the national level.

Fourth, agricultural mechanization has already reached a considerable level. At present, the province has 78,000 large and medium-sized tractors, 4,200 walking tractors, and 18,000 combine harvestors. The total horsepower of large, medium-sized, and small tractors in the province is 4.83 million horsepower, and the workload for every horsepower is 15.6 mu of cultivated land. Currently, soil preparation is 87 percent mechanized, sowing is 64 percent mechanized, intertilling is 56 percent mechanized, and harvesting is 28 percent mechanized. The major processes of farmwork has been basically mechanized. Transport is 66 percent mechanized.

Fifth, Heilongjiang's natural conditions are suitable for the growing of economic crops such as soybeans, beets, flax, and oil-bearing crops, and there are great prospects for development in this respect. Particularly in semi-arid areas and in areas of lightly saline-alkali soil on which grain output is low, the contradiction between the development of these economic crops and commodity grain production is not great.

Sixth, industry and communications in the key grain-producing areas and the economic crop areas are well developed, a fact that is beneficial for the development of commodity-type agriculture. The province's railroad and highway network is dense, the relations between town and country are close, and the beet sugar-making industry and flax textile industry are well developed. There is a definite foundation for country-run industry and for commune- and production-team-run industry. All these things provide the conditions for the development of a diverse economic undertaking in agriculture, industry, and commerce.

Seventh, the grasslands are centralized and large, a fact that is advantageous for the development of animal husbandry. The 26 million mu of grasslands in the western part of the Songnen Plain famous for the alkaline meadows that they teem with and the grassy hills, grassy slopes, and grass between forests in the Greater and Lesser Xing'an Mountains are not being fully utilized at

present. In the agricultural areas, because there are fairly many agricultural and sideline occupation products and fairly many forage lands, the areas possess the conditions for further developing animal husbandry. Milch cow raising has a long history, and there are prospects for its expanded development in the future.

Eighth, in the past several years because of the increase in commune members' private plots, forage land, and fuel forest land, there are seven fen of land per capita. This has promoted the flourishing of the private economy of commune member households, and at present over 90 percent of the meat, fowls, and eggs on the market are produced by the commune members' private economy. The commune members' household economy will further develop in the future.

In brief, Heilongjiang has rich agricultural resources and a fairly large production potential, and has a fairly high level of agricultural mechanization. Its superiorities are evident. The question is how to display these superiorities.

II

There also exist these problems in Heilongjiang's agriculture:

First of all, the population is growing fast, and the per capita area of cultivated land is falling. In the 30 years since the founding of the state, the province's population grew from 10 million to 31 million. Land taken by various construction projects as well as land washed away by flood and covered by sand caused a reduction in cultivated land of over 40 million mu, and therefore the per capita cultivated land dropped from 8.4 mu to 4.1 mu. The grasslands area also fell sharply: in 1956 there were 44 million mu of grasslands in the Songnen Plain, but by 1978 only 26 million mu remained, a reduction of 41 percent in these 30 years; the province's population and agricultural population have increased at an annual rate of 3.6 percent and 3.1 percent respectively; the total output of grain, soybeans, and yams has only increased at an annual rate of 2.7 percent, and the number of livestock (excluding draft animals) has only increased at an average annual rate of 1.6 percent, both lower than the population growth rate. With regard to the proportion of the population in the total population consuming commodity grain, excluding the municipalities of Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai that are directly under the central government, our province is in first place among all provinces. The proportion of the population consuming commodity grain in the country's total population is about 15 percent, but in our province it is as high as 47.5 percent, and the amount of grain sold privately is very large. This is an important reason for the amount of grain sold to the state becoming smaller and smaller.

Second, the ecological balance has been damaged, the fertility of the cultivated land has dropped, and there has been a tendency for more frequent natural disasters. In the over 30 years since the founding of the state, we have taken the path of solely developing grain production by constantly reclaiming wasteland and engaging in extensive management. The successes in

wasteland reclamation should be affirmed, but we have neglected the combining of land cultivation with land nourishment and the setting up of an agricultural structure that comprehensively develops agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry. In the 30 years, forest land has been reduced by 80 million mu. During the process of reclaiming wasteland, owing to the lack of a unified plan, renovation has not kept pace and the old balance has been damaged and a new balance has not been established. The area of soil erosion in the province is 60 million mu, or 46 percent of the total cultivated land area, of which 30 million mu are seriously eroded. The organic matter content of the cultivated land has fallen at an average yearly rate of 0.1-0.2 percent. In places that were developed fairly early the organic matter content has dropped from the original 8 percent to 2-4 percent, and the organic matter content of places that were developed fairly late is only 3-5 percent. For example, comparing the 1980's to the 1960's, forest land has been reduced by 4.94 million mu, grasslands by 5.66 million mu, reed ponds by 1.85 million mu, and water surface by 1.66 million mu. Therefore, if there is a small natural disaster in 3 years output drops by about 20 percent, and if there is a big natural disaster in 5 years output drops by over 30 percent. In Baiquan County, which has all along been called a county that could not be worn down, 7 percent of the hilly land has been changed into loess hills, 30 percent of its land has become alkali, and some of its land has begun to change into sand. The long period of solely engaging in grain production has caused proportionate losses to agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry. In 1949, of the province's total agricultural output value, plant cultivation accounted for 63.2 percent, and by the 1970's this had risen to 80 percent, of which the greater part was grain cultivation.

Third, farmland water conservancy construction is weak, and the capacity for resisting natural disasters is low. The effective irrigation area in the entire country is 50 percent, but in our province it is only 9 percent, and there are only a little over 3.7 million mu of farmland on which stable yields are insured despite drought or excessive rain, amounting to 218 percent of the total area of cultivated land. In the province there are floods in the east and droughts in the west, floods in the autumn and droughts in the spring. In 1981, the Sanjiang Plain was flooded, causing a drop in output of over 4 billion jin. In 1982, the area suffering from drought reached over 100 million mu, and this will cause a drop in output of 1 billion jin. Basically, the amount of our food still depends on the weather. Since the founding of the state over 30 years ago, there have been seven big fluctuations in grain production, all of them basically caused by our weak capacity to resist natural disasters.

Fourth, the level of intensive farming is low. In the years 1953-1978, average investment in farmland capital construction for the country as a whole was 32.11 yuan per mu, but for Heilongjiang it was only 8.27 yuan. In the years 1949-1979, the average per mu agricultural loan for the country as a whole was 13.24 yuan, but in Heilongjiang it was only 9.14 yuan. In the years 1950-1978, the average per mu water conservancy investment for the country as a whole was 28 yuan, but for Heilongjiang it was only 12 yuan. In 1979 the average amount of chemical fertilizers applied per mu for the country as a whole was 73 jin, but for Heilongjiang it was only 25 jin. In 1979, the average amount of

electricity used per mu for the country as a whole was 17 kwh, but for Heilongjiang it was only 10.6 kwh. The per unit area yield of the commodity grain bases in our province is not high and their total yield is not stable; this is a manifestation of the low level of intensive farming. If this backward state of affairs is not changed, it will be hard for Heilongjiang to display its natural superiorities.

III

Proceeding from the above conditions, we think that agricultural construction in Heilongjiang Province should switch from a strategy of extensive cultivation and extensive farming to a strategy of intensive farming, intensive cultivation, and raising of the per unit area yield. Only in this way will there be less investment, more yield, fast results, and a high commodity rate, so that the role of Heilongjiang's commodity bases will be given full play. In order to effect this switch in strategy, the following several relationships must be handled well:

First, there is the problem of the relationship between reclaiming wasteland and raising the per unit area yield. Raising the per unit area yield should be made the main direction of attack; in the future wasteland must be reclaimed only under the condition that the ecological balance not be damaged, and stress should be placed on management of the existing cultivated land. This is because although there is wasteland there is not much of it, and the potential for raising the per unit yield of the existing cultivated land is large. Compared with the reclamation of wasteland, investment is small and results quick.

If we want to raise the per unit area yield, first of all we should handle well the two big commodity grain bases--Songnen Plain and Sanjiang Plain. On Songnen Plain there are a total of 11 commodity grain bases, the greater part of the province's current 13 commodity grain bases. In this area are 43.6 percent of the province's cultivated land, 45-46 percent of the province's total grain output, and about 40 percent of commodity grain; the degree of intensive farming is higher than the provincial level. However, it is still one of the country's low yield areas, with a per unit area grain yield of only 287 jin, so the production potential is large. The main reason for the low yield is that water conservancy has not yet caught up with production requirements. On average, for every 2,000 mu there is only 1 well; each well's actual irrigation area is no more than 30-50 mu, and only 10.4 percent of the total area is effectively irrigated. Here, some places are rich in groundwater sources and have the conditions to tap them. Based on the results of a long-term experiment, if 53 yuan per mu were given to tap these resources, the average per mu yield could be raised by about 200 jin. According to this calculation, if the effective irrigated area is raised from the present approximately 10 percent to approximately 65 percent, this area will increase by 33 million mu and there could be a net increase of 6.6 billion jin. This would require 1.65 billion yuan in funds, and 2 or 3 years would be needed before benefits would appear. In places that are short of groundwater, the full utilization of surface water will well handle dry spells,

and it is an option with small investment and quick results. This option requires the full utilization of reservoirs and diversion works that have already been built, so that the parts are linked up to form a complete whole that fully displays its effect.

The Sanjiang Plain accounts for 35 percent of the province's present cultivated land, and most of it is newly reclaimed wasteland on which extensive farming is practice. Because capital construction has not kept pace, production has been very unstable. In the 32 years since the founding of the state, there have been 15 waterlogging years, which caused great losses. For example, in the Lianhuapao waterlogging area, because the water conservancy projects did not form a complete set and the problem of drainage outlets was not solved, in the period 1975-1980, when there were 6 successive years of drought, some grain was harvested, but from 1981 on the situation changed to years of plentiful water and continuous rainfall. This soil became saturated and rivers overflowed their banks, causing serious waterlogging; 83 percent of the cultivated land and 18 percent of the residential areas were inundated, and economic losses amounted to over 36 million yuan. Therefore, this situation must be fundamentally brought under control, and the capacity for flood prevention and drainage of waterlogged fields must be strengthened. The required investment is about 2.1 billion yuan (including the reclamation of 15 million mu of wasteland). The Songnen Plain is enormous, so this work will take a long time and results will be slow in coming. According to expert opinion, 8 or 9 years will be required and results will only be seen in 1990. At that time grain output will increase from the present 9.9 billion jin to 15.6 billion jin; a net increase of 6.6 billion jin [as published] and equal to the Songnen Plain's net increase. Therefore, on balance, it seems that in the near future stress should be put on the Songnen Plain, because the investment will be 350 million yuan less and the time needed will be 5 or 6 years earlier. In this way the state will early on get over 30 billion jin of grain. As for bringing the Sanjiang Plain under control, this can be a point to stress in the middle period.

Second, the problem concerning the relationship between grain production on the one hand and economic crops and forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery on the other. For many years there has existed a big contradiction in the commodity grain-producing areas located in the black earth zone, viz, the area is suitable both for planting grain and for planting soybeans, beets, flax, edible oil, and other economic crops, so there has always existed a contention for land between grain crops and economic crops. Here, the problem of price is an important factor. As a policy we must insure that peasants who plant grain are able to get profits commensurate with the profits from planting economic crops, and then we will be able to sustain the peasant's enthusiasm for planting grain. In the years 1976-1982, through a readjustment, the area planted to economic crops rose from 4.2 percent to 7.6 percent. Looking at the province as a whole, the area planted to, the output of, and the processing arrangements for beets, flax, oil-bearing, and other important economic crops are already more or less rational, and in the future stability should be stressed. The general pattern is: area sown to grain about 60 percent, to soybeans about 25 percent, and to other economic crops about 15 percent. It should be guaranteed that the total area sown to grain and

soybeans is over 100 million mu, and it should never be allowed to fall below this figure.

In setting up a rational agricultural structure, there is also the problem of the proportional relations of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline production, and fishery. That is to say, besides vigorously developing farming, we must make full use of natural conditions to develop forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery, and by establishing a national ecological balance give grain production a good ecological environment.

Heilongjiang's forest resources are rich. Forests cover 36 percent of the province, but their distribution is extremely uneven. The Greater Xing'an Mountains area is 73.4 percent forest, the Lesser Xing'an Mountains are 50.2 percent forest, the Songnen Plain is only 3.9 percent forest, and the Sanjiang Plain is only 1.9 percent forest. In the past 20 years, the proportion between felling trees and growing new ones has been lost. The total production capacity of the forests was 322 million cubic meters, but the consumption amount was 444 million cubic meters, an overfelling of 38 percent. If this phenomenon is not reversed, the forests will be stripped bare in a few decades. Moreover, the afforestation preservation rate is low. Since the founding of the state, over 28 million mu on the Songnen Plain have been afforested, but by the end of 1981 the preservation area was 5.66 million mu, a preservation rate of only about 20 percent.

Therefore, truly workable plans should be formulated for developing forestry. If the agricultural areas want to attain the goal of conserving water and soil, solving the fuel problem, and setting up a good cycle, then the forest cover rate should be no lower than 10 percent and it would be best if it were 15 percent. In developing forestry we should integrate its strong and weak points and, in the near future, by making the development of fuel forests primary, solve the energy problem, and return the leftover straw to the fields or use it as fodder. In the distant future, we should plant farmland protection forests and water and soil conservation forests, and in places where conditions permit we should develop timber forests.

Animal husbandry must be vigorously developed so that there is a big breakthrough in cattle, sheep, and pig output. Heilongjiang is one of the 10 big animal husbandry areas in the country. It has 76 million mu of grassland, grassy hills, and grassy slopes; it also has a definite capacity for processing animal and dairy products. There are good conditions and a big potential for developing animal husbandry. In the past, because we paid sole attention to grain, the output value of animal husbandry was only about 10 percent, which was very unsuitable for agricultural development. From now on, the policy for developing animal husbandry should be: give equal weight to farming areas and animal husbandry areas, and give equal weight to pigs and herbivores. For example, in the Greater and Lesser Xing'an Mountains areas, there are few people and much land. The land area is 2/5 of the province's total area; over 1 million mu of wasteland extend into 10 counties and cities. With the exception of some land suitable for farming which can be reclaimed and planted to grain, the majority of the barren hills and barren slopes can be afforested, and grass can be planted on much of the wasteland for grazing, utilizing these wastelands for a big development of forestry and animal husbandry.

In addition, the water surface should be fully utilized to develop fishery production. The Heilongjiang River, the Songhua [Sungari] River, and the Ussuri [Ussuri] River are major producing areas for chum salmon, sturgeon, and huso sturgeon, and they have much prospect for development. On the Nenjiang Plain, the water-retention surface is about 3 million mu, and there is some low-lying and easily waterlogged land on which water cannot be drained off. To use these water surfaces and places for raising fish and for planting reeds and other aquatic plants of economic value will bring much greater economic results than the planting of grain. As for the rivers, ponds, and reservoirs in other areas, they should also be fully utilized for raising fish.

Third, handle well the relationship between traditional agriculture and modern agriculture. The level of mechanization in Heilongjiang Province is fairly high. With the kind of advanced mechanical equipment that is in the No. 1 Production Brigade of the No. 5 Subfarm of the Friendship Farm, one labor force can produce several hundreds of thousands of jin of grain. However, proceeding from the province's abundant labor, we should take the path of combining advanced mechanized technology with ordinary mechanized technology as well as with manual labor, thereby giving full play to the province's superiority in labor power resources.

The amount of chemical fertilizer used is still very low and should be raised. In particular, the methods of applying fertilizer must be improved, and, on the basis of a general survey of the soil, fertilizer application should be suited to local conditions. Organic fertilizers must be vigorously applied. At present in the province the average application of organic fertilizers per mu does not reach 2,000 jin, in some counties the average is less than 1,000 jin, and in some places no organic fertilizers at all are applied. Ways to solve the organic fertilizer problem are to develop animal husbandry, expand the planting of green manure crops, and return straw to the fields. So long as equal weight is given to agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry, it will not be hard to solve this problem.

A fundamental way to improve the economic results is to popularize advanced science and technology. At present, first of all, the popularization of excellent varieties is an important measure for keeping investment low, getting quick results, and improving results. Based on Heilongjiang's characteristics of having a short frost-free period and frequent early frosts, we must select and popularize seed varieties that are disease-resistant, early-ripening, high-yield, and suited to mechanized cultivation. We must, persisting in proceeding from the situation of the province's six active temperate zones, select the master varieties and the superior varieties of each area and strictly forbid cross-district planting. Also, we must handle well the "four changes and one supply" regarding seeds.

Improving low-yield fields is also an important measure for raising the per mu area yield. These low-yield fields are concentrated on the saline-alkali soil and the wind-blown sandy soil of the Songnen Plain; on the (white thick-liquid soil) [baixiangtu 4101 3364 0960] in the hilly land of the Nen River semimountain area in the eastern part of the province; on the (black soil) [heirangtu 7015 4344 0960] and (white thick-liquid soil) of the

alluvial plain on the lower reaches of the Nen River on the Sanjiang Plain. There are about 48 million mu of low-yield fields in the province on which the per mu yield is around 100 jin. These low-yield fields should be tackled by stages and groups.

Lastly, several problems must be discussed: the first problem is that of exchange at equal value. At present, for every 10,000 jin of grain that Heilongjiang Province sends out, local finances pay 108 yuan. The loss to the grain economy every year is about 300 million yuan, and in the highest years is as much as 600 million yuan. With this equation between the grain sent out and the money paid for sending it out, the pressure on finances is very great. If this problem is not solved, enthusiasm for operating commodity grain bases will surely be dampened. The second problem is that of POL supply. Every year Heilongjiang's agriculture consumes 600,000 tons of POL, but the state supplies only 440,000 tons. In 1977, 135 kilograms of POL were supplied per horsepower, and this figure has now dropped to 60 kilograms, with the result that the agricultural machine utilization rate has dropped to about 20 percent. It is also inadvisable to rashly change the historically created preferential prices for agriculture's use of electricity and POL. The third problem is that the 3d Plenary Session of the CPC Central Committee decided to reduce the prices of materials serving the needs of agricultural production; actually, not only have the prices not gone down but on the contrary they have risen. We suggest that these problems be comprehensively considered and studied.

(Authors' work unit: Heilongjiang Provincial Agricultural Economics Research Institute)

9727

CSO: 4007/165

FARM MACHINERY OPERATION STANDARDS GO INTO FORCE

Beijing BIAOZHUNHUA TONGXUN [STANDARDIZATION JOURNAL] in Chinese No 6,
1983 p 15

[Article: "Heilongjiang Province Publishes Technical Standards for Field Operation of Farm Machinery"]

[Text] Recently Heilongjiang People's Government authorized, and the provincial standards bureau published, the Heilongjiang Province Technical Standards for Field Operation of Farm Equipment, which went into force throughout the province on 1 March 1983.

These standards are the first comprehensive technical regulations for Heilongjiang's agricultural production. They have assimilated the province's experience of more than 30 years' mechanized agricultural production and synthesized and made comprehensive use of advanced scientific and technical results from China and abroad; they satisfy the requirements that they be technically advanced, economically rational and practicable for production work, and they embody the organic unity between agricultural machinery and techniques, as well as the regional characteristics of agricultural production. The standards include four sections dealing with work with agricultural machinery, agricultural technical requirements, technical conditions of agricultural machinery, field operating regulations, and inspection and acceptance methods for work with eight types of crops, including wheat, soybeans, corn, rice and sugar beets.

These standards take full account of optimal agricultural machinery production-use programs for achieving superior quality, high efficiency, low fuel consumption and safety on state farms and rural communes and will help to accelerate the modernization of Heilongjiang's agriculture. Particularly now, when the various types of production responsibility systems and production contracting are being instituted everywhere in agricultural production, they will provide data for guiding the inspection of production and operating quality and payment according to labor. Verification in spot experiments indicates that under equal conditions, the standard operating time utilization rate can be increased by 18.1 percent and labor productivity can be increased by 13 percent, oil consumption per mu can be decreased by 11 percent, and output can be increased by at least 10 percent.

8480

CSO: 4067/213

BRIEFS

WHEAT HARVEST--As of 18 August, Heilongjiang Province had harvested 176.2 million mu of wheat, 62 percent of the wheatfield under harvest. At present, some 8 million mu of wheat have been threshed and some 2 billion jin of wheat have been stored. Some 32 cities and counties in the province completed their harvesting tasks. [Summary] [Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 20 Aug 83 SK]

FLOOD PEAK--Affected by heavy downpours on the upper reaches of the Songhua-jiang River and the water discharge from Fengman reservoir, a flood peak will occur in the Harbin section of Songhua-jiang River on 20 August. The water level of this river section will reach 118.35 meters and the volume of flow will reach 6,000 cubic meters per second. The Heilongjiang Provincial Flood Combating Headquarters has called on all localities to prepare for the flood peak. [Summary] [Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 13 Aug 83 SK]

CSO: 4008/228

JIANGXI

BRIEFS

SUMMER GRAIN PURCHASE--By 15 August, Jiangxi Province had purchased 1.53 million jin of summer grain and put it in storage. The amount was 268 million jin more than that for the same period of 1982. [Summary] [Nanchang Jiangxi Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83 OW]

CITY DROUGHT--Pingxiang City is striving to protect its crop seedlings from drought, which has seriously affected 97,000 mu of the city's late rice crop since late July. [Summary] [Nanchang Jiangxi Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 18 Aug 83 OW]

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

SONGHUAJIANG RIVER DISCHARGES WATER--The Songhuajiang River is swelling with water following several days of downpours in the mountainous areas on the upper reaches of the No 2 Songhuajiang River. As of 24 July, the water level of Songhua Lake had reached 260.66 [as heard] meters. The provincial government decided to discharge water from this river after receiving approval from the Ministry of Water Resources and Electric Power. At 1400 on 24 July, the Fengman hydroelectric power station opened a water-discharge channel. The water poured out at 1,960 cubic meters per second from the river. To guarantee the safety of the lives and property of the residents living along the lower reaches of the river, the Jilin flood prevention headquarters, after receiving notification from higher authorities on discharging the water, immediately notified all the flood prevention commands along the river to prepare for flooding. [Text] [SK270331 Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin 2200 GMT 26 Jul 83]

CSO: 4007/228

INITIAL ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN SEED EXAMINATION

OW100125 Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 0830 GMT 9 Aug 83

[By reporter Liu Xinxin]

[Excerpts] Shenyang, 9 Aug (XINHUA)--Reference material provided by China's first meeting on seed examination work indicates that our country has attained initial results in examining seeds over the past 4 years. The meeting concluded in Shenyang on 9 August. During 1982 nearly 3 billion jin of seeds of various crops including grains, oil-bearing crops and vegetables were examined by various seed companies at and above the county level. Ninety percent of the seeds met the specifications set by the state. More and more peasants are using high-quality and high-yield seeds of fine strain.

At present two-thirds of the seed companies throughout the country have set up seed examination departments. The remainder of the seed companies have hired full- or part-time seed examiners. There are more than 14,000 sets of seed examination implements.

The ratio of impurities in fields sown with millet and gaoliang seeds in Liaoning was over 7 percent in average in 1978. This ratio was as high as 25 percent in some localities. After the development of seed examination work, this ratio now has dropped to under 2 percent. This spring 99.5 percent of the 260 million jin of seeds of various crops supplied by the seed companies at all levels throughout the province are first- and second-class seeds of fine strain.

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

BANNER WHEAT--Commune members in Tumd Right Banner, Nei Monggol, have vigorously sold wheat to the state. By 2 August, the banner had procured 1.02 million jin of wheat. The banner planted 257,000 mu of wheat. The output is expected to reach 103.8 million jin. [Excerpt] [Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 10 Aug 83 SK]

AFFORESTATION--As calculated by the Nei Monggol Regional Forestry Bureau, by the end of July, the region had afforested 1.216 million mu in the rainy season. Ih Ju League has afforested 156,000 mu and Ulanqab League has afforested 401,000 mu. The areas afforested in the rainy season and last spring totaled 5.57 million mu, 9.8 percent higher than the annual afforest target. [Excerpts] [SK141306 Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 5 Aug 83]

SHELTERBELTS--Over the past 3 years, Nei Monggol has increased its afforested acreage by 26 percent each year and the areas of surviving forests have reached 15 million mu. Nei Monggol is a key region in building farmland shelterbelts in north, northeast, and northwest China. Shelterbelts to be built in the region cover 81 banners and counties, totaling 8,000 li in length. [Summary] [Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 7 Aug 83 SK]

CASHMERE PROCUREMENT--By the end of July, Nei Monggol Region had procured 70 million jin of cashmere and other animal hair, fulfilling 80 percent of the annual procurement plan. Of this, the procurement of cashmere approached the average level of 1982. [Summary] [Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 11 Aug 83 SK]

LEAGUE LIVESTOCK--Thanks to all-round contract system in livestock breeding, herdsmen in Xilin Gol League in Nei Monggol have increased their private livestock to 3.625 million head, amounting to 44.3 percent of the total number of animals in the league. [Summary] [Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 7 Aug 83 SK]

CSO: 4007/228

NORTH CHINA AGRICULTURAL MEETING OPENS

HK060752 Xian Shaanxi Provincial Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] With the approval of the State Council, a conference on agricultural work in the dry-land areas of north China opened in Yanan on 3 August. The conference has been convened by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries. Some 300 delegates from 15 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions are attending the meeting. Lin Hujia, adviser to the ministry, presided at the opening ceremony. Adviser (Liu Xigeng) and Academy of Agricultural Science President (Lu Liangshu) made speeches.

This meeting will implement the instructions of Comrades Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang on water conservation construction, dry-land agriculture, and economical use of water. It will sum up and exchange experiences in connection with reality, enhance understanding on the importance of developing dry-land agriculture, and apply the method of walking on two legs to solve the problem of water for agriculture in the dry areas of north China.

Comrade (Liu Xigang) stressed in his speech: Attaching importance to summing up the masses' experience in dry-land agriculture and developing this agriculture is based on the actual situation of lack of abundant water sources in our country, especially in the north. Hence, to solve the problem of water for dry-land agriculture in the north, apart from continuing to build some water conservation projects and suitably expanding the irrigated area in places where conditions are right, the current main effort should be devoted to getting a vigorous grasp of dry-land agriculture and doing everything possible to store water and maintain soil moisture. This is the most realistic measure for increasing production.

CSO: 4007/228

MINISTRY ADVISER ON AGRICULTURE RESEARCH TASKS

HK221018 Xian Shaanxi Provincial Service in Mandarin 0500 GMT 22 Aug 83

[Text] Lin Hujia, adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Forestry, said at the north China dryland agriculture work conference that agricultural scientists must go deep into reality, learn from the masses, and put in the first place the summing up of the experience of the masses in the localities.

Lin Hujia said: The most important task of agricultural research units is to conscientiously sum up the experience of the masses in the localities in a scientific and orderly manner so as to find out the universal law governing this experience. We must be able to provide data for the masses. If we can provide data, the masses will have faith in us and act according to our requirements. Otherwise, they will hesitate in their work, and advanced experience cannot be popularized.

Lin Hujia said: Agricultural scientists have differing views on collecting the masses' experience, because they have to carry out field investigation in many places. Sometimes, after a year of work, they still cannot provide data. Therefore, some comrades have lost interest in this work somewhat. This phenomenon must be changed.

He finally stressed: The first task of agricultural research units is to sum up the advanced experience of the masses in the localities and provide data for the compilation of textbooks. The second task, which is to be fulfilled by a small number of specialists, is to carry out experiments according to their own tentative ideas. The third task is to bring forward the three-in-one experiments of agricultural research units, agricultural colleges, and agricultural administrative departments. The fourth task is to study new varieties in the localities, develop their own varieties, and introduce new varieties from foreign countries and other provinces and places. On this basis, they can carry out their own experiments, which ordinary peasants cannot make without the help of scientific research units.

CSO: 4007/228

SHANDONG REAPS BUMPER WHEAT HARVEST

Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese 27 Jun 83 p 1

[Article: "Province Gratified by Unprecedented Bumper Harvest of Wheat"]

[Text] This province has reaped an unprecedentedly rich harvest on its more than 53 million mu of wheat land; total output surpassed 20 billion jin for the first time and was up by more than 30 percent from the previous year and by more than 10 percent from the previous record set in 1979. The masses' joy has been unbounded as they have enthusiastically sold the new wheat to the state.

This year's bumper harvest in this province has three outstanding characteristics. First, the policy of "no slackening in grain production, active development of diversified operations" was been fully applied everywhere, the area sown to wheat was suitably expanded in accordance with local conditions, and the total sown area in the province was the greatest in the last 2 years. Second, there was a uniform increase in output over a large area. A group of high-production counties and communes appeared one after another, and a large group of medium- and low-production units made great strides, so that there was a marked decrease in the unevenness of wheat production. In four districts in northwestern Shandong which had long been known for having numerous disasters and low output the wheat production of many counties and communes propelled them into the ranks of the pacesetters. The total output in the province's 13 prefectural cities exceed last year's. Of 122 counties and districts, with the exception of 3 counties which had decreased output as a result of serious drought, frost and other disasters, all had an increase in output from last year. Third, the increase in production was unprecedented. In the past, relatively good areas required about 10 years to increase their yield by 100 jin per mu, but now more than 40 counties had increases of 100 jin per mu or more from last year, and a group of counties with average yields of more than 600 jin per mu have emerged, and along with communes with outputs of 700 or 800 jin per mu or more and prefectures with average yields per mu exceeding 500 jin per mu. This was a new breakthrough in our province's wheat production following several years of vacillation.

This was the first bumper summer harvest in this province since the 1952 First Congress. The masses said in praise that good policies were the basis, studying science added the spirit, and nature granted people's wishes. In fact, last fall the air temperature in the province was unusually high, there were abundant rain, the period suitable for sowing was long, and creating the condition for increased tillering of the wheat before winter and development of vigorous seedlings; the winter was unusually warm, which was beneficial for safe overwintering; and there was a suitable rainfall this spring in most areas, which promoted elongation, the milk stage and grain filling. But the main factors still are the fact that the party's agricultural economic policy has penetrated into the people's minds, the production responsibility system, principally in the form of household-level contracting, has been continually improved and upgraded, the peasants have farmed in accordance with local conditions, management has been realistic, all households' sense of responsibility has been strengthened, and the peasants have been motivated to develop grain production. At the same time, the level of scientific cultivation has been rising continuously. Following essentially provincewide popularization of superior varieties, investigation of technologies for rapidly increasing the wheat output of medium- and low-production fields was undertaken with the result that large low-production areas became medium-production areas. This year more than 1.5 million mu of land on which rice had been grown gave an average yield of over 500 jin per mu. More than 200,000 mu of arid land or poor land was used as test areas for increased wheat production techniques; comprehensive measures were taken, including the use of increased amounts of phosphate fertilizer, the use of water storage to maintain soil moisture, performance of early sowing at a suitable time, and selection of drought-resistant varieties and varieties suited to poor soil, with the result that the yield reached more than 450 jin per mu, providing fresh experience in uniformly increasing wheat yields in this province.

In this year's wheat production, because some localities did their spring cultivation work too late, their varieties were mixed, superior varieties were not matched with superior techniques- and they were too hasty in sowing, overfertilized and overirrigated, increased outputs were hindered in some units and actual economic benefits suffered. Currently the cadres and peasants are conscientiously summing up the lessons of their wheat production experience, are making energetic and effective fall planting preparations, and are laying a good foundation for an even greater wheat harvest next year.

4/86

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GOVERNMENT NOTICE ON SUMMER GRAIN PROCUREMENT ISSUED

From: GUANGDONG RIBAO in Chinese 27 Jun 83 p 1.

[Article: "Procurement of More Summer Wheat, Prevention of Difficulty in the Peasants' Sale of Wheat"]

[Text: On 23 June the provincial People's Government issued a notice requesting the localities to do their work well, to go ahead boldly with buying more summer wheat in order to satisfy the masses' request to sell it, and to prevent difficulties in their selling it.

The notice stated: The province's summer wheat harvest is essentially complete and actual output is even higher than was originally forecast. After a bumper harvest the masses are very eager to sell their excess grain, and the progress of summer grain procurement is very rapid. As of 20 June, 2.2 billion jin of summer grain has already been taken into the granaries, an increase of more than 1.4 billion jin from the same period last year. The current problem is that some localities underestimated this year's summer bumper harvest and the masses' eagerness to sell their grain, so that they have not made sufficiently thorough preparations to buy more summer grain; in some other localities the advance summer grain loan for the collective has been excessively large, and unauthorized cuts have been made in the grain procurement price, which has seriously damaged the masses' enthusiasm.

In order to ensure victorious completion of this year's summer grain procurement tasks, the notice requests all localities to proceed boldly to buy more summer grain and to prevent any difficulty for the peasants in selling it. All grain handed over by the peasants which meets state standards should be readily procured in the full amount offered; procurement may not be limited, stopped or refused for any reason. The interests of the state, the collective and the individual must all be taken into account, and while procuring the grain, attention must be given to effectively offsetting for the commune members' livelihood; the small number of units whose output has decreased as a result of disasters should have their procurement assignments reasonably decreased.

The notice emphasizes that we must conscientiously implement the summer grain procurement and distribution policy and persistently put a stop to such erroneous practices as excessive collective levies and unauthorized

on leveling of procurement prices during summer procurement and distribution which have occurred in some localities. The collective levy must be carried out in accordance with regulations and in keeping with the actual situation and a suitable rate should be set in accordance with the actual situation. We must consistently adhere to contracts, and the rate must not be increased at will. Contract targets that are too high must be suitably decreased, and the yearly levy must not all be taken in the summer. The departments must not allocate grain to the masses at will or add new levies. With the exception of the collection of the agricultural tax and planned deduction of advance grain and oil procurement sums, the grain departments' prices for closing accounts in summer grain procurement may not include deductions of other types. This is to assure the masses' livelihood and their enthusiasm for selling grain. The localities must conscientiously conduct investigations, and if problems are discovered they should be corrected in timely fashion.

The matter also requires that the grain procurement departments in the various localities take active steps to improve their service attitude, increase their labor productivity, and make it easier for the masses to sell their grain. All those involved must find ways of solving the problems of insufficient granary capacity. At the same time, we must take conscientious and effective fire prevention, theft prevention, rain protection and mold protection measures in order to insure against loss of grain.

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BRIEFS

CHANGJIANG ESTUARY GROUP--Shanghai, 20 Aug (XINHUA)--Recently, the State Council approved the establishment of a leading group to supervise the development of the estuary area of the Changjiang and the work of harnessing the Huangpu river in Shanghai. Members of the group of Wang Lin, chairman of the Shanghai Economic Zoning office; Qian Qinying, minister of water conservancy and electric power; Ni Tianzeng, vice mayor of Shanghai; Zi Gang, vice minister of communications; Ling Qihong, vice governor of Jiangsu; Huang Youruo, chairman of the Changjiang Valley Development planning office; and Yan Kai, president of the East China Water Conservancy College. Meanwhile, the State Council has also approved the establishment of the Shanghai Municipal Bureau for Development of the Changjiang Estuary Area and the Shanghai Branch of the East China Survey and Design Institute, which will respectively undertake the work of developing the Changjiang mouth area and the survey, design, construction and administrative work for harnessing the Huangpu River. [Summary] [Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service in Chinese 1220 GMT 20 Aug 83 OW]

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

TORRENTIAL RAINSTORMS IN SICHUAN BASIN--Torrential rainstorms fell in the Sichuan Basin from 16 to 18 August, moving from West to East. In the western part of the basin, mountain torrents poured down and rivers such as the Min, Tuo and Fu rose rapidly. Most parts of Emei County seat were flooded to a depth of more than 1 meter. Some farmland was also inundated, and the highways and railroads were cut in places. Some losses were caused to industrial and agricultural production. The torrential rainstorms have now moved to the eastern part of the basin. All places should make proper arrangements for flood precautions and rescue work. [Summary] [HK200239 Chengdu Sichuan Provincial Service in Mandarin 0030 GMT 20 Aug 83]

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE MEETING--A conference on nature reserves in the national forestry system opened in Urumqi today. Vice Minister of Forestry Dong Zhiyong and Xinjiang Regional Vice Chairman Yusufu Muhamode spoke at the opening session. Regional CPC Committee Secretary Li Jiayu also attended. The meeting will sum up experiences in building nature reserves, examine views on nature reserve zoning in the forestry system, formulate plans and strategic aims for the end of the century, and discuss measures for strengthening the building and management of nature reserves. [Summary] [HK110328 Urumqi Xinjiang Regional Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 10 Aug 83]

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION--This year, livestock production in Xinjiang Region has increased. By the end of June, the total number of livestock in the region reached 35.95 million head, 1.35 million head more than in the same period last year. This is the region's sixth consecutive bumper livestock harvest year. Since last autumn, pastoral areas in the region have all had drought, and herbage has not grown well. Herdsmen and livestock scientific and technological workers have fought drought to protect livestock successfully. Some 9.73 million head of young livestock have grown up well. The number of young livestock is some 80,000 head more than in the same period last year. Over the past few years, mutton sheep production in the region has steadily increased. From January to May this year, state-run commercial units and cooperatives' commercial units throughout the region procured some 47,000 mutton sheep, 25.4 percent more than in the corresponding period last year. [Summary] [Urumqi Xinjiang Regional Service in Mandarin 1300 GMT 5 Aug 83 HK]

CSO: 4007/228

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE--From 12 to 19 July, the Yunnan Provincial Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries held a conference in Kunming on the production of spring-harvested crops and oil-bearing crops. In light of the special characteristics of agricultural production in the province, the conference laid stress on the study of measures to fix the amount of the areas sown to spring-harvested crops and to ensure increased production of spring-harvested crops. Some 200 responsible cadres and scientific and technological cadres of the agricultural and agricultural scientific departments of all prefectures, cities, and counties held that the per-mu yields of spring-harvested crops and oil-bearing crops were low and unsteady. They pointed out that to greatly increase production, it is necessary to ensure a certain amount of areas sown to them. In 1984 and 1985, the province must fix 13.7-14 million mu for cultivating spring-harvested crops. In view of the serious drought this year, all places in the province which have favorable conditions, must strive to cultivate more spring-harvested crops to recoup for spring-sown crops which were adversely affected. The southern part of the province must take such measures as are suitable to local conditions to enlarge the areas for the double cropping of spring-harvested crops and to strive to increase the per-mu yields and gross yields. [Summary] [HK211422 Kunming Yunnan Provincial Service in Mandarin 2300 GMT 20 Jul 83]

CSO: 4007/228

ZHEJIANG REPORTS BRISK GRAIN BUYING, SELLING

Hangzhou ZHEJIANG RIBAO in Chinese 11 Jun 83 p 3

[Article: "Negotiated-Price Grain Procurement and Sales Flourish Here"]

[Text] In the 1982 grain year (beginning of April 1982 to end of March 1983), while setting a record in actual state grain procurement, this province's negotiated-price procurement reached 1.758 billion jin, nearly twice the previous record set in 1979; negotiated-price sales totaled 587 million jin and negotiated-price transfers to replenish state stocks totaled 200 million jin; while procurement and sales both achieved new records. The 1982 negotiated-price grain procurement and sales showed a favorable balance of 1.171 billion jin, laying the material basis for better regulation of the market this year.

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